

Finding Faithful Friends Notes

Philippians 2:19-30

Rev. Brian Bill

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Main Point: To grow in faithfulness, make some faithful friends.

Timothy Was an Unselfish Servant

1. Background

- A mom can live missionally with or without the help of a _____.
- The Apostle Paul disciplined Timothy.
- He became a partner with Paul in the Gospel and served as the _____ of the church in Ephesus.
- Timothy was originally from Lystra.
- He grew up in a multicultural house with a _____ father and a Jewish-Christian mother and grandmother.

2. Become more _____ (vs 19).

- Paul hopes to send Timothy to the Philippians for two reasons
 - To _____ them.
 - For him to be encouraged when Timothy comes back with _____ about them.
- The phrase “no one else like him” means “having the same _____ and being like-minded.”
- The phrase “genuinely concerned” can be translated as, “sincerely _____ for the welfare of others.”

3. Be _____ Christ (vs. 21).

- Timothy stood out from everyone else because his interests were _____ with the interests of Christ.

4. _____ yourself to Christians (vs. 22)

- The word “proven” means, “_____ by fire, to be approved after testing.”
- Timothy was seasoned by suffering and had a _____ reputation.
- Paul viewed him as a spiritual “_____” who served with him as they struggled through trials together while proclaiming the gospel.

Epaphroditus Was a Suffering Servant

1. Develop a _____ mentality (vs. 25).

- “My brother”
- “Fellow worker.”
- “Fellow soldier.”
- “Your messenger.”
- “Minister to my need.”

2. Desire biblical _____ (vs. 26, Philippians 1:8).
 - The word “distressed” refers to mental, emotional, or spiritual _____.
 - If you struggle in this regard, ask God to help you yearn to gather with God’s people and then learn how to get back in the saddle.
3. Deal with problems _____ (vs. 27-28).
 - When people get sick, it doesn’t necessarily mean it’s their _____ (John 9:2-3).
 - Paul did not miraculously _____ Epaphroditus (vs. 27, Psalm 73:26).
 - Grief and sorrow are _____ when we experience pain and loss.
4. _____ yourself completely (vs. 29).
 - Receive him with _____ – The idea is to accept him like a long-lost friend.
 - Recognize him with _____ – to honor is to treat someone as weighty, giving him the respect he is due.
 - The phrase “risking his life” means to “hazard, to throw _____ one’s life, or to gamble.”

Action Steps

1. Work at learning the _____ of people.
 - We automatically feel more valued and engaged when someone uses our name.
2. Choose your friends _____ (Proverbs 13:20).
 - “Restoring Your Spiritual Passion” by Gordon MacDonald
 - VRP’s – Very Resourceful People – Ignite Our Passion
 - VIP’s – Very Important People – Share Our Passion
 - VTP’s - Very Trainable People – Catch Our Passion
 - VNP’s – Very Nice People – Enjoy Our Passion
 - VDP’s – Very Draining People – Sap Our Passion
 - We should have friends who rub off on us in a good way and we should be _____ off on others, without letting them rub us the wrong way!
3. _____ this church family
4. Ask Christ to _____ you (Proverbs 18:24)
 - The phrase “come to ruin” literally means “to break in pieces by a blow.”
 - The word “sticks” literally means, “ _____, or adhere” and refers to the joining of two metals together.
 - When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we are welded to Him forever and nothing can separate us from Him.
5. Surrender to the Savior and _____ Him with all you have.