

iv. What is your role in the gospel work of Christ?

**Slaves of Christ – Part 7**  
***Two Promises and Two People***  
Jerry Cisar — November 11, 2018

Text: Philippians 2:19-30

**Introduction**

Paul calls our attention to two examples and, combining them with two promises, he strengthens the likelihood that the Philippians (and we), follow his instructions.

**I. Two Promises (2:19, 23-24)**

A. I'm Coming

B. Paul's hope or expectation is *in the Lord Jesus*.

i. James 4:13-15

ii. Paul is acknowledging two things:

a) The Lord has put it in his heart to go and therefore has the power to accomplish it.

b) All his plans are and will always remain subject to the will of the Lord. (1:25; 2:17).

iii. Do you make your plans “in the Lord Jesus”?

**LIVE THE STORY**

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.  
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Did it surprise you to hear that believers living under persecution pray for those in the West that we would learn to suffer well in the midst of our prosperity? Why do you think this is?
- What should we make of the expressions Paul uses, “I hope in the Lord Jesus to ...” and “I am confident in the Lord that ...”? How might this apply to how we make and carry out our plans?
- How might the promise of Timothy's visit, and Paul's visit, motivate the Philippians to put into practice the instructions of the letter?
- Why, according to our text, was Timothy's presence almost equal to Paul's presence? What distinguished Timothy from others? How can we put this into practice in our own lives?
- What does the fact that, despite their different roles, Paul calls Epaphroditus “my brother, co-worker, fellow-soldier,” who is doing the “work of the Lord,” say about how God uses all of us in the church?
- How are you serving the work of the Lord? How does Paul's commendation of Epaphroditus encourage you in the work you are doing for the Lord?

- C. Paul “promises” to send Timothy.
  - i. Paul describes Timothy in a way that sets him apart from all others in the work of the gospel.
  - ii. The history of their relationship (Acts 15:36—16:1).
  - iii. A visit from Timothy is equal to a visit from Paul.

- Paul supports this with “as a child with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”
- [“Served with me” is “slaved with me”. (See 2:7.)]

b) Timothy has imitated Paul as he imitated Christ!

ii. Timothy was proven. He had passed the test (22a).

D. Paul “promises” to come Himself (24).

## II. Two People (2:20-22, 25-39)

- A. Timothy (20-22)
  - i. “I have no one else *like him*...”
    - CSB Philippians 2:20** For I have no one else *like-minded* who will genuinely care about your interests
    - NASB Philippians 2:20** For I have no one *else of kindred spirit* who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.

The “like *him*” supplied by the NIV or ESV could be, “I have no one like *me*,” or “with a kindred spirit *to me*.”

- a) Support for Paul meaning, “like me”?
  - By caring for the church deeply, Timothy is like-minded with Paul (2 Cor. 11:23-28).

B. Epaphroditus (25-30)

- i. Epaphroditus is actually standing in front of the Philippians when they receive the letter.
- ii. What was Epaphroditus' role?
  - a) Sent by the Philippians to meet Paul's needs (4:18)
  - b) Was he a deacon in Philippi? (Cr. rf. Rom. 16:1)

iii. “*also your messenger*”