

# Philippians: Week 7 Study Questions

## Philippians 2:19-30

If we say we are believers then there is a mission to accomplish and a passion to develop—to live a life of humility and sacrifice, modeled by the life of Jesus. We are to put others' interests above our own and understand that the mission of Jesus is not about our own well-being. Through the examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus, Paul shows us that our lives should be lives of risk-taking, sacrificing, and humble submission for the work of Christ.

## Application

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1. When Paul references Timothy as genuinely concerned for others, who in your life comes to mind as genuinely concerned for you and why? What would it look like for you to have *this* kind of concern for those around you? What would change in your life?
2. We have to be careful to detect the false gospel of a “God owes me” mentality, or thinking that because we go to church or do our quiet time or serve in some capacity that life should go well for us. Instead, Paul recognizes the cost of the furtherance of the gospel and shows how Epaphroditus takes on the risk of caring for others. How are you taking on risks to care for others for the proclamation of the gospel?
3. Paul calls Epaphroditus his co-worker and fellow soldier: someone who has labored alongside him in the proclamation of the gospel and has battled with him through challenges and trials. In what ways do you have this type of warfare mentality with your community? Who are your co-workers and fellow soldiers? Who would say that you are in the trenches with them?
4. What are some excuses that we self-generate to keep us from humble sacrifice in our care for others? Do your excuses reflect that you care more about your own safety, security, and comfort, or care more about others' well-being? What could you be doing for the work of Christ to reflect genuine concern for others except for your excuses?

## Key Points

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- Genuinely caring for others is not just about helping people with their problems but about advancing the gospel and sharing the Truth with them.
- Christ's mission is not about our own well-being and comfort but about the well-being of others.
- We tend to think that God must relieve us of the suffering we are facing, while Paul recognizes that every good thing that comes from God is divine mercy in our lives. He is not entitled, but filled with gratitude.
- Anything we do for the mission of Christ is the work of Christ; self-sacrifice accomplishes this work.
- If you see furthering the mission of Jesus through daily humility and sacrifice as a non-issue for you as a believer, you may be in a dangerous place of still living for yourself.