

Philippians pt. 24

Paul, Timothy & Epaphroditus: Faithful Models to Follow pt. 3
Epaphroditus the Suffering Servant | Philippians 2:25-30

MANIFESTO TO JOY

Tim Armstrong

THE CHAPEL

Resources:

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2001). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.
 Boice, J. M. (2000). *Philippians: an expositional commentary*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 Cross, F. L. and Livingstone, Elizabeth A., eds., *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2005).
 Ellicott, C. J. (1876). *St. Paul's Epistles to the Philippians, Colossians, and to Philemon: With a Critical and Grammatical Commentary, and a Revised Translation*. Andover: Warren F. Draper.
 Ironside, H. A., *Philippians* (Neptune, N.J.: Loizeaux Bros., 1922).
 MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2001). *Philippians*. Chicago: Moody Press.
 MacArthur, J.F., *In the Footsteps of Faith: Lessons From the Lives of Great Men*, electronic ed. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998).
 Swanson, James and Nave, Orville *New Nave's Topical Bible* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, 1994).
 Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's Word Studies From the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
 Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

Philippians 2:25-30 ESV

Epaphroditus

New Nave's Topical Bible
 "Epaphroditus. A messenger of Paul, Phil. 2:25; 4:18."
 James Swanson and Orville Nave, *New Nave's Topical Bible*
 (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, 1994).

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church
 "Epaphroditus. A 'brother, and fellow-worker, and fellow-soldier' of St Paul, mentioned only in Phil. He carried a gift from Philippi to Paul and returned, probably bearing the Epistle to the Philippians. There is no reason to identify Epaphroditus with the Epaphras of Col. 4:12"
 F. L. Cross and Elizabeth A. Livingstone, eds., *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 552.

Epaphroditus the Suffering Servant
Five Identifying Words

#1 _____

See: Colossians 3:11 ESV

#2 _____

See: Luke 18:28-30 ESV

“There is a sense in which our churches sometimes have almost stopped working...As Protestantism won its great cultural victories in America, particularly in the nineteenth century, the Protestant church entered a period of internal decline that we see clearly today and will probably see more clearly in the years ahead. By its numerical and financial success, Protestantism became increasingly identified with American culture and so became unable to speak prophetically to it, except in a few rare instances. Because of its very success the Protestant church became complacent and lost its intellectual and cultural dynamic. In far too many instances it abandoned a forthright proclamation of the gospel.”

James Montgomery Boice, *Philippians: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 159.

#3 _____

See: 2 Timothy 2:1-6; Ephesians 6:12

#4 _____

#5 _____

“Let it be noted that the apostle did not consider he had any right to demand physical healing even for so faithful a laborer as Epaphroditus. Paul recognized it as simply the mercy of God, not as that to which saints have a right...And let it be remembered that sickness may be as much from God as health. It is clear that Paul never held or taught “healing in the atonement,” and therefore the birth-right privilege of all Christians. Nor do we ever read of him or his fellow-laborers being miraculously healed. Paul himself, Timothy and Epaphroditus, all bear witness to the contrary. The apostle urges the saints to receive their messenger, when he should return to them, with all gladness, and commands them to hold such in reputation, because for the work of Christ he has been sick, nigh unto death, not regarding his life in order to serve Paul in their stead.”

H. A. Ironside, *Philippians* (Neptune, N.J.: Loizeaux Bros., 1922), 65.

What are the implications of these passages to my life?
