

ALL THROUGH CHRIST

"For I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"
[Philippians 4:13]

Talk summary:

TIMOTHY & EPAPHRODITUS: GENEROUS, SOLD-OUT LIVES FOR JESUS. Philippians 2.19-30

Main Message: When Jesus lives in His followers, their whole lives change!

Key Verse(s):

But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. (v22)

Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. (v25)

Section summary:

Paul points out two fellow believers who are living after Jesus' example. First, he commends Timothy because he puts the needs of God's people before his own. Second, he acknowledges that Epaphroditus left his home, just as Jesus did, to serve Paul in his time of need and nearly lost his life in the process.

'So what?':

Timothy and Epaphroditus are examples to us of lives sold out for Jesus – hearts, heads and hands. This generosity took many forms – caring for the needs of others above themselves. Epaphroditus was bringing the gift of money that the Philippians had donated to Paul's Gospel work, and he later commends them for their support. Our faith in Christ should incorporate all aspects of our life including our financial giving. He invites us all, rich or poor (see Lydia of Philippi in Acts 16:14 who was a rich businesswoman) but he calls us all to be generous not just for the purpose of the gift, but for the blessing of the giver (4:17). We are able to do this 'all through Christ'.

Questions:

Conversation Starter: Which area of following Jesus comes most naturally to you: **heart** (love of God and neighbour, worship, compassion), **head** (plans, thinking things through, seeking to understand God's ways), **hands** (generously giving what you have, serving willingly)? Is there an area God is stretching you in at the moment?

What might God be saying to me about this theme/situation?

What have I learnt that I want to hold on to?

How am I going to put it into practice?