

Philippians 2:19-24

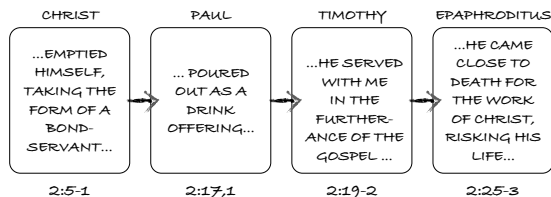
TIMOTHY EXAMPLE

Philippians 2:19-24

¹⁹ But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. ²⁰ For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me; ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.

Introduction

- Paul is continuing with his theme (1:27ff) of gently dealing with divisiveness in the Philippian church. He has been communicating that they, as believers, ought to be considering the interest of others ahead of their own. Paul gives four examples, with Timothy as the example in this passage:

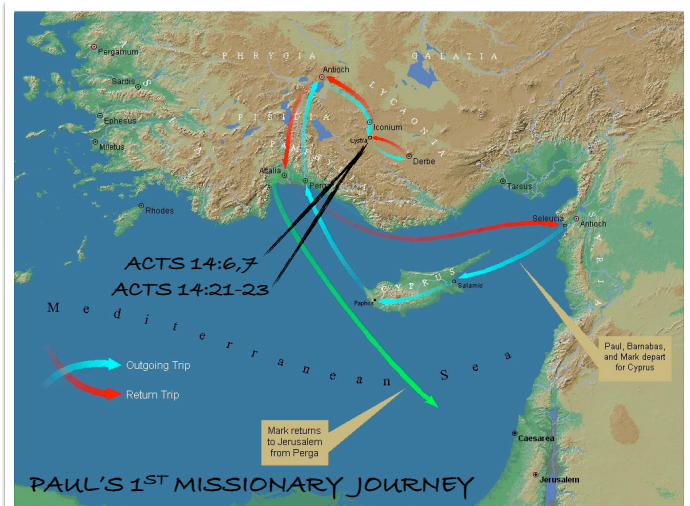


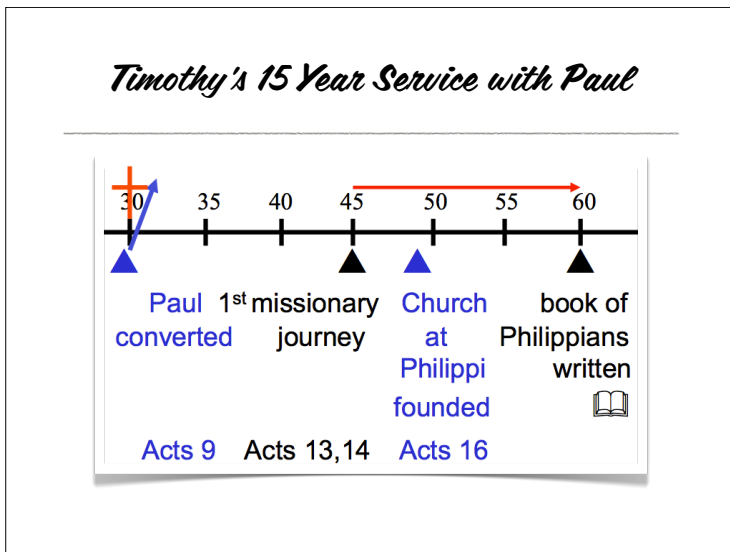
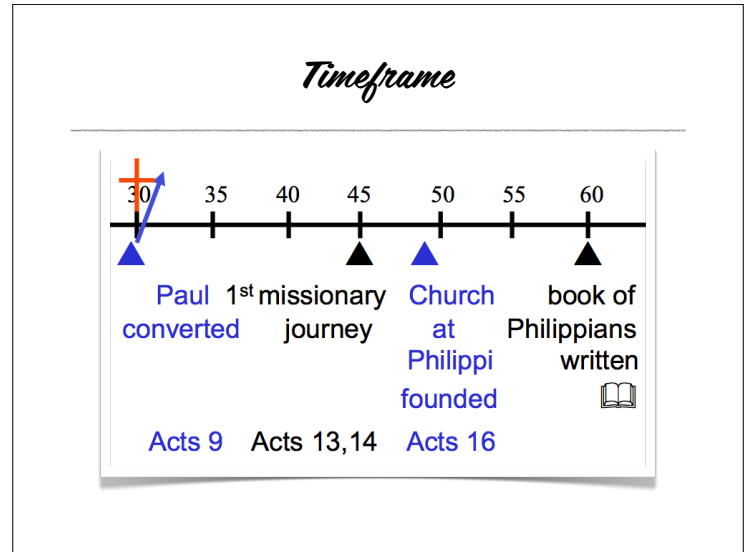
Lystra - Roman colony founded 6 BC



Timothy

- Lived in Lystra (Roman Colony), mother was Jewish, father was Greek
- Church established in Lystra on Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 14:6,7) by Paul and Barnabas. Timothy not mentioned here
- Paul's loops back through Lystra after the initial establishment (Acts 14:21-23)
- Paul's second missionary journey is where Timothy is circumcised and taken with Paul (Acts 16:1-3)





Philippians 2:19-24

19 BUT I HOPE IN THE LORD JESUS TO SEND TIMOTHY TO YOU SHORTLY, SO THAT I ALSO MAY BE ENCOURAGED WHEN I LEARN OF YOUR CONDITION.

V. 19

20 FOR I HAVE NO ONE ELSE OF KINDRED SPIRIT WHO WILL GENUINELY BE CONCERNED FOR YOUR WELFARE. 21 FOR THEY ALL SEEK AFTER THEIR OWN INTERESTS, NOT THOSE OF CHRIST JESUS. 22 BUT YOU KNOW OF HIS PROVEN WORTH, THAT HE SERVED WITH ME IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL LIKE A CHILD SERVING HIS FATHER.

VV. 20-22

23 THEREFORE I HOPE TO SEND HIM IMMEDIATELY, AS SOON AS I SEE HOW THINGS GO WITH ME; 24 AND I TRUST IN THE LORD THAT I MYSELF ALSO WILL BE COMING SHORTLY.

VV. 23-24

Philippians 2:19-24

SEND TIMOTHY PAUL TO HEAR

V. 19

TIMOTHY'S CHARACTER CONTRASTED WITH OTHER'S

VV. 20-22

SEND TIMOTHY PAUL TO COME

VV. 23-24

Pattern & Reflection

SEND TIMOTHY
PAUL TO HEAR

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VV. 20-22

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VV. 23-24

Paul often assigning, sending or sending for Timothy

- Acts 19:22
 - 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10,11
 - Philippians 2:19, 23
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:1,2
 - 1 Timothy 1:3,4
- And others as well:**
- 2 Cor 8:16-24; 9:3; 12:17,18
 - Ephesians 6:21,22
 - Philippians 2:25
 - Colossians 4:7-9
 - Titus 1:5; 3:12
 - 2 Timothy 4:12

Philippians 2:19-24

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The phrase, "...in the Lord Jesus..."

"I **hope** in the Lord Jesus..." (2:19)

"I **trust** in the Lord..." (2:24)

- **hope:** Greek, *elpizo* = to hope, (NKJV: trust)
- **trust:** Greek, *peitho* = have confidence

These are not statements of position, nor a prophecy of what was to happen, but instead show that Paul, in his condition, is holding every aspiration subject to the Lord

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Sending Timothy

- Paul's intent is to send Timothy to Philippi very soon, & Paul himself would like to follow Timothy's visit with his own
- He sees benefits for the saints in Philippi from Timothy's ministry & Paul himself would like to be encouraged by an update about the spiritual progress of the saints in Philippi
- But...Paul's sending of Timothy will wait until the outcome of Paul's legal appeal is known!

Keyword in Philippians 2:19

- **encouraged**: Greek *eupsucho* (*yoo-psoo-kheh'-o*) = to be of good comfort (eu, "well," psuche, "the soul")
- This is the only place this word is used in the entire New Testament, but perhaps Paul is using it here to tie in with his use of *psuchos*, or derived words, in Philippians 1:27, 2:2 & 2:20, where he uses it in each case to emphasize the unity of the believers. Also the word *phroneo*, to have a mindset about something, a mindedness
- Paul is continually driving home this unity of "single-souled".

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Keyword in Philippians 2:20

- **kindred spirit** (NKJV: likeminded): Greek *isopsuchon* (*ee-sop'-soo-khon*) = iso + psuchos = same or equal-souled
- In Philippians 1:27 Paul urged that the saints in Philippi be "one-souled"
- In 2:2 he urged that they be "together-souled"
- In 2:20, Paul offers Timothy as the best example of someone who was "same-souled"

Keyword in Philippians 2:20

- **genuinely** (NKJV: sincerely) Greek *gnesios* (*gnay-see'-ose*)
- This word is based on a word meaning "legitimately born" – the genuine article, of innate character, the real thing
- 1 Timothy 1:2 begins with Paul writing, "To Timothy, my true (*gnesios*) child in the faith..."

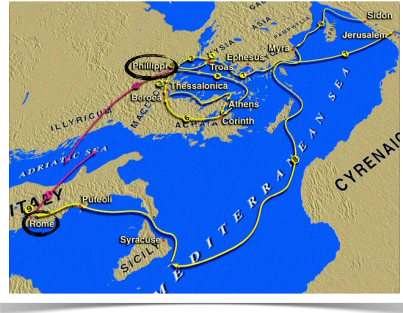
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Remember when...

- Philippians 2:3-4, ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."
- 2:20b-21 "[Timothy]...will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus."

Rome to Philippi is About 40 Days on Foot



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Keyword in Philippians 2:22

- **know**: Greek: *ginōskō* = to know by experience
- The believers at Philippi had spent personal time with Timothy (Paul did not have to introduce him or explain who he was), so they knew personally of his character (Acts 16:1-12; 19:22; 20:3-6)
- The verb is present active indicative, so they were knowing this as a fact about Timothy as of Paul's the time of writing

Keyword in Philippians 2:22

- **proven worth** (NKJV: proven character): Greek *dokimē* = evidence, proof that something is genuine
- This is closely related to the word *dokimos* in Philippians 1:10
- It means that Timothy had been tested & had been shown by that testing to be approved by reason of passing the test – his character had been demonstrated by being tested

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Keyword in Philippians 2:22

- **served**: Greek *douleō* = This word does mean "to serve", but the verb Paul uses is the service of an owned slave (not just a hired or voluntary servant), one whose will is entirely subject to that of another
- Recall that in Philippians 1:1, Paul & Timothy called themselves, "bond-servants (*doulos*) of Jesus Christ"

"...a child serving his father"

- Timothy would be sent as a representative of his "spiritual" father, Paul, being "same souled" as Paul, & having been approved by testing
- It was common in New Testament times for a disciple to be called a son & his teacher as a father
- But there is something to clarify in this verse...

"...he has served with me..."

- Though Paul does compare his relationship with Timothy as "father & son"...
- Paul writes here of Timothy serving with him
- They are both bond-servants of Christ (as in Philippians 1:1), so that Timothy is not serving (douleo) Paul, but Christ
- Since they both serve Christ, Timothy is serving with Paul

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Keyword in Philippians 2:22

- **I see** (KJV: I shall see): Greek aphoraō = apo + horao = away from + look
- This word carries the idea of Paul's having his attention focused most intensively on the needs of the saints in Philippi, but that he would have to look away from that principal focus toward his legal proceedings to determine the right time to send Timothy

Philippians 2:19-24 Expanded & Explained

²¹ For all the others, except for Timothy, seek after their own personal interests, rather than the ultimate spiritual concerns of others, in view of who Christ Jesus is and our eternal position in Him. ²² But, you know by personal experience Timothy's tested and examined character, that as a devoted child would his father, he served as a wholly owned bondservant, making his will entirely subject to Christ, right alongside me for the past twelve years.

Philippians 2:19-24 Expanded & Explained

²³ Therefore I hope, which hope is subject to the will of the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you immediately upon my turning my attention from being focused upon you so as to see how things go with my legal proceedings; ²⁴ and being optimistic about my circumstances, I have confidence, subject to the will of the Lord, that I also will be coming to visit you shortly as well, following Timothy's visit to you.