

**LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN #7**  
**“Positive Examples”**  
**Philippians 2:17-30**

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These days it is common to have a mentor who can coach you in developing your skills, making progress in your career and your personal life. This is also true of growing spiritually. The 12 disciples followed the example of Jesus, Timothy followed the example of Paul, as did the churches that Paul founded. Today’s Christian should follow the example of Jesus as set forth in the Scripture and seek to emulate mature believers that provide a good example of the Christian life. In today’s passage, Paul is providing the Philippians with positive examples to follow in their spiritual development. What role models do you have in your life as a disciple of Christ?

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**#1. THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL - SACRIFICIAL SERVICE WITH JOY, vv. 17-18**

- A. Paul hoped to boast in the Day of Christ over their sanctification, vv. 12-16a
- B. Paul was concerned that his work was for nothing, v. 16
- C. Paul saw himself as a drink offering, v. 17
- D. Paul saw his life as “poured out” for the benefit of others, v. 17
- E. Paul is glad & rejoices in the Philippians, v. 17, 3 John 1:3-4
- F. Paul & the Philippians should have mutual joy over their relationship, v. 18

**#2. THE EXAMPLE OF TIMOTHY – HE TAKES A GENUINE INTEREST IN YOUR WELFARE, vv. 19-24**

- A. Timothy was known in Philippi, Acts 16
- B. Timothy would report to Paul on the Philippians’ progress, v. 19
- C. Timothy is like no one else, v. 20
- D. Timothy has a genuine interest in your welfare, v. 20, 2:1-4
- E. Timothy doesn’t follow his own interests, but Christ’s, v. 21
- F. Timothy has proved himself, v. 22
- G. Timothy was like a son to Paul, v. 22
- H. Timothy has served Paul in promoting the gospel, v. 22
- I. Timothy would be sent to help them resolve their issues, v. 23
- J. Timothy would be followed by Paul, v. 24

**#3. THE EXAMPLE OF EPAPHRODITUS – HONOR MEN LIKE HIM WHO RISKED HIS LIFE FOR CHRIST, vv. 25-30**

- A. Paul wanted to send him back to Philippi, v. 25
- B. Epaphroditus’ relationship with Paul: v. 25
  - 1. My brother
  - 2. My fellow worker
  - 3. My fellow soldier
- C. Epaphroditus was their messenger, v. 25
- D. Epaphroditus was their gift to Paul, v. 25
- E. Epaphroditus was emotionally distressed, v. 26
- F. Epaphroditus got sick & almost died, v. 27
- G. Epaphroditus’ return put Paul in a delicate situation, v. 28
- H. Epaphroditus’ reception: vv. 29-30
  - 1. Welcome him in the Lord with great joy
  - 2. Honor men like him
  - 3. He almost died serving Christ
  - 4. He was their emissary

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**TODAY’S SCRIPTURE**  
**Philippians 2:17-30**

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup>So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>19</sup>I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. <sup>20</sup>I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. <sup>21</sup>For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>23</sup>I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup>And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

<sup>25</sup>But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. <sup>26</sup>For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup>Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup>Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. <sup>29</sup>Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, <sup>30</sup>because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

**2 Timothy 2:2:** And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

**1 Corinthians 4:15-17:** Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup>Therefore I urge you to imitate me. <sup>17</sup>For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

**1 Corinthians 11:1:** Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

**Philippians 2:1-5:** If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. In what way(s) does Paul's relationship with Timothy serve as a model for the Philippians to follow?

#2. Why is it important to pass on your skills and years of acquired wisdom to someone younger than you? (2 Timothy 2:2)

#3. Why is it important to follow the example of mature Christians? 1 Cor 4:15-17, 1 Cor 11:1, James 3:13

#4. What is the danger of following the example of other Christians?

#5. What coaching do you think Paul gave Timothy before he sent him to Philippi?

#6. How do you think Timothy felt about going to Philippi and helping them work through their issues? (see 2 Timothy 1:5-7)

#7. Why is it important to build up the people around us as Paul is doing with Timothy and Epaphroditus?

#8. For what reasons might the Philippians think Paul is offended that they sent him someone who got sick and became a burden to him?

#9. Do you think Epaphroditus felt like a failure? Why or why not?

#10. Do you think the Philippians were disappointed in Epaphroditus? Why or why not?

#11. In what ways do you think Paul counseled Epaphroditus before he sent him back to Philippi?

#12. What does Paul's approach in handling this situation with Epaphroditus tell you about his sensitivity to people?

#13. Sometimes the best made plans don't work out because of unforeseen circumstances like Epaphroditus' illness. What conclusions can be made about that?

#14. Do you think a church should have special services to honor people who have served the Lord with distinction? Why or why not?

#15. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday Bible Study at 6:30: a discussion of the previous sermon.

Wednesday prayer and study at 6:30. (access both by clicking the zoom link)

Fellowship Gathering at Garbolina Park: Saturday, October 10th, at 9am. This is a time to visit with the church family and keep our in person connections.

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of Hillcrest Church. You can give online or mail your check to the church.

- Give to the general fund (our operating expenses)
- Give to the elder's fund (to assist those in financial need)
- Give to the Great Commission fund (for the missionaries of the CMA)

If you need spiritual counseling during these crazy times don't hesitate to contact any of the elders:

[Bruce@hillcrestroseville.com](mailto:Bruce@hillcrestroseville.com)

[Keith@hillcrestroseville.com](mailto:Keith@hillcrestroseville.com)

[Aaron@hillcrestroseville.com](mailto:Aaron@hillcrestroseville.com)

Next Sunday we will be switching to a different zoom account and will provide you with the new login information