



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

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Friday, May 28, 2021

Scripture: Philippians 2:19-24

TITLE: Those Special Relationships

Who is your best friend? Who is that person you care greatly for? You want to spend time with them. You get both encouraged by them, and even challenged, because they care. I have several people who fit this description. I pray you do too.

Well, the Apostle Paul had a very good friend Timothy. Listen to what Paul has to say about this dear friend in Philippians 2:

“If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. ²⁰ I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. ²¹ All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. ²² But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. ²³ I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. ²⁴ And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.” (Phil. 2:19-24, NLT)

Here’s what we know about Timothy. He was from Lystra in Galatia. His mother and grandmother were Christians. It was Paul who lead him to Christ. So Paul would describe him as a son. The goal of discipleship is reproduction. It’s replication and multiplication. That’s what Timothy was to Paul. Here, it says that Paul had no one else like Timothy. The NASB does a better job translating it as “kindred spirit.” They were truly one-minded or one-souled. Timothy was a **true disciple** of Paul.

Timothy was also very **caring**. He was **compassionate**. He cared about the lives and souls of his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Timothy was **focused**. He was the opposite of the people who were selfish and focused on themselves - not Timothy. Timothy was focused on serving Christ.

Timothy was **proven**. He wasn’t a false convert or a notional disciple. No, he continually proved himself. He showed that he was faithful to Christ and faithful to being a servant.

Last, Timothy was a **servant**. The term Paul used is *doulos*. It’s a slave – a true servant. But Timothy was a co-laborer with Paul - partners in the ministry.

It’s clear from this letter that Timothy was special to Paul and was special in the cause of Christ, but not special in a unique sense - special because he simply was doing life God’s way. And so can you.

So here's my challenge for you today: Find your Timothy. Who is a person in your life you can disciple and coach? And don't overcomplicate this. Discipleship is about living life and life with Bible engagement, intentional living, and Gospel intentionality. That's it. It's about being available and real. If I can do it, you can do it.

When people are invited in, they see your authentic faith and their intrinsic worth. So now go and win the day.