

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 2:19-30

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“FRIENDS AND FOES IN THE FELLOWSHIP” – PART 1

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

Introduction to the Text;

Philippians 2:19-30

In the 2001 Blockbuster, by Peter Jackson,

http://ia.media-imdb.com/images/M/MV5BNTEyMjAwMDU1OV5BMl5BanBnXkFtZTcwNDQyNTkxMw@@._V1_SX640_S Y720_.jpg

In the Epic movie “The Lord of the Rings” introduced us to the series **The Fellowship of the Ring** based on the first volume of J. R. R. Tolkien's **The Lord of the Rings** Set in Middle-earth. The story tells of the Dark Lord Sa’ur’on, who is seeking absolute power to rule the world.

The story features a most unlikely character, the young hobbit Frodo Baggins who, against all odds, holds the fate of Middle-earth with his eight companions, who in order to survive, form **“The Fellowship of the Ring”** United - they can journey to Mount Doom in the land of Mordor, in order to destroy the demon forces of hell.

World War I British lieutenant J. R. R. Tolkien having witnessed the horrors of that world war was inspired to see that such evil on earth had to originate from another world – an invisible world locked in an epic battle between good and evil.

Their Personal Safety and Mission Success was all based upon them being one and being united in the same cause.

Philippians 2:19-24

But I trust in the **Lord Jesus** to send **Timothy** to you shortly, that I also may be **encouraged** when I know your **state**. **20 For I have no one like-minded**, who will **sincerely** care for your state. **21** For all **seek** their own, not the things which are of **Christ Jesus**. **22** But you know his **proven character**, that - as a son with his father – so he **served** with me in the gospel. **23** Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. **24 But I trust** in the **Lord** that I myself shall also come shortly.

Philippians 2:25-30

Yet I considered it necessary **to send to you Epaphroditus**, my **brother**, fellow **worker**, and fellow **soldier**, but your **messenger** and **the one** who **ministered** to my need; **26** since he was **longing** for you all, and was **distressed** because you had heard that he was **sick**. **27** For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow (why didn't Paul just heal the man). **28** Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. **29 Receive** him therefore in the **Lord** with all gladness, and **hold** such men in **esteem**; **30** because **for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life**, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

An exhortation is needed to us about the friends we keep.

If you like it or not, you and I are having to choose sides on a daily bases. Life, it is going, heading toward a defining moment that will reveal what it is that we have built our lives upon. For the devoted Christian – it will be a truly awesome season of faith.

What's The App (application) for That?

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, (personal, engaging, face to face living as Christians) **25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Philippians 2:19-24

But I trust in the **Lord Jesus** to send **Timothy** to you shortly, (1) that I also may be **encouraged** when I know your **state**. **20** (2) **For I have NO ONE** (here in rome) **like-minded**, who will **sincerely** care for your state. **21** (3) For all **seek** their own, not the things which are of **Christ Jesus**. **22** (4) But you know his **proven character**, that - as a son with his father - he **served** with me in the gospel. **23** **Therefore I hope** to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. **24 But I trust** in the **Lord** that I myself shall also come to you shortly.

The Book of Philippians puts forth the Excellent Example of Biblical Christianity – The “How it should be lived out” and the “What does it look like in real life” – But this book does even more than that, It gives flesh and blood, practical, living, breathing examples to follow.
They are Real People...

These Examples are to be our Friends in the Faith and the list of these examples make up “The Who’s Who” of Christianity. It all begins with Jesus Christ Himself, then Paul uses himself, then he uses the Philippian Church, now he zooms in to the nuts and bolts of how a church practically exists - He turns inside to the people that put into action.

John 15:15

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Friends And Foes In The Fellowship

1.) Like-Minded believers will become your friends vs. 19-24

Like-Minded Believers Will Become Your Friends

1a.) Friends will be developed in time vs. 19-20

Notice with me, (where) Paul’s trust is placed;

But I trust in the Lord Jesus

Mark This Church !

It is the work of the Lord Jesus to make us **One in Him**.
And The Holy Spirit of God is The Bonding Agent, The Glue of the Church.

John 17:10-11, 22-23

And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. **11** Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, **that** they may be one as We are... **22** And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that** they may be one just as **We are one**: **23** I in them, and You in Me; **that** they may be made perfect in one, and **that** the world may know that You have sent Me.

John 14:16-18

I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper** (parakletos), that He may **abide with** (internally residence) you forever **17** the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells **with you** and **will be in you**. **18** I will not leave you orphans; **I will come to you**.

Q: - So How do We Become “One” ?

A: - Friends Will Be Developed Over Time.

Philippians 2:5

Let this **mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus.

You cannot - **create** a committee that will make **oneness**.

You cannot - **order** it to be so. You cannot ordain **oneness** to happen.

You cannot - **work** it up, You cannot hype **oneness** up, You cannot buy it.

Christian Denominations Can't Do It.

Movements **Can't Do It.** / Singing KumbaYah **Can't Do It.**

FriendSHIPS / FELLOWSHIP will be developed in time
By virtue of following Jesus as a Disciple, Student, Apprentice of His.

Verse 19b

to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be **encouraged** when I know your **state**. **20 For I have no one like-minded**, who will **sincerely** care for your state.

First of All; What do we know of this man Timothy?

He was born into a mixed culture. His mother was Jewish and his dad a Greek. There must have been a bit of a struggle in his home growing up. Being taught the Bible from his mom and grandmother – he was still uncircumcised which would have been from his faiths' pagan roots.

He was born in Lystra, Turkey and was introduced to Paul while in his late teens.

2 Timothy 1:5-7

When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

But you (tim) must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Timothy Was a Super Swordsman

Are you sitting down, Cuz here comes a shocker !!!

Verse 20

For I have no one (in Rome) **like-minded**,
who will **sincerely** care for your state.

like-minded grk: *i jso/yucoβ isopsuchos*, *ee-sop'-soo-khos*; being of a similar spirit or direction. of the same path or heading. similar in amount and kind. To be in agreement or equal like regarding the issue(s). root word = **psuche**, breath of mind – to think alike in soul. In unity. **To think like Christ.**

we know that he could be sent	he is a faithful man.
we know that he could be trusted	he will accurately report.
we know that he could be beneficial	he is united in mind
we know that he could be genuine	he loved them also.

Exhortation / Admonition Here:

Be careful about “**what**” you surround yourself with when it comes to **people**.

“What People?”

Friends And Foes In The Fellowship

Like-Minded Believers Will Become Your Friends

2 Timothy 4:1-5, 9-21

I charge you **Timothy** therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry :9 Be diligent to come to me quickly; 10 for **Demas** has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—**Crescens** for Galatia, **Titus** for Dalmatia. 11 Only **Luke** is with me. Get **Mark** and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. 12 And **Tychicus** I have sent to Ephesus. 13 Bring the cloak that I left with **Carpus** at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments. :14 **Alexander** the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. 15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. :16 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. :17 But the **Lord** stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!
:19 Greet **Prisca** and **Aquila**, and the household of **Onesiphorus**. 20 **Erastus** stayed in Corinth, but **Trophimus** I have left in **Miletus** sick. :21 Do your utmost to come before winter. **Eubulus** greets you, as well as **Pudens**, **Linus**, **Claudia**, and all the **brethren**.

There Is an Individual Personality to Every Church, yet United by a Universal Bond.

Ephesians 4:4-5, 11-15

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all...
:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – even Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. :12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free

Still sitting - here comes another shocker !!!

Friends And Foes In The Fellowship
Like-Minded Believers Will Become Your Friends

1b.) Friends will be **few in number**

vs. 21

For all (not everyone but most) **seek** their own,
not the things which are of **Christ Jesus**

This is a brutally honest admission without apology.

Paul **IS NOT** talking about non-believers, He is talking about those who are inside “The Church” - - **They may or may not be real, born again believers** but **they are in the church** and they are **trouble-makers** or at least **trouble-enablers**. Do you know any trouble-makers in your church? They may or may not be real Christians. And for those of you who are involved in ministry – you know what Paul is saying here is exactly true, sad to say.

Paul was writing from a prison in Rome.

Apparently the witness of the Church at Rome wasn't so great,
not like the Philippians.

Leading up to this section, the apostle was all about doctrine and conduct, now he gives us practical examples of the actual living people that live lives worthy of the gospel.

Friends And Foes In The Fellowship
Like-Minded Believers Will Become Your Friends

1c.) Friends will be **lovingly honest**

vs. 22-24

22 But you know his **proven character**, that - as a son with his father – so he **served with me** in the gospel. **23** Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. **24** **But I trust** in the **Lord** that I myself shall also come shortly.

proven character grk: dokime, dok-ee-may' fire-proofed. heat tested. To be brought to the place of reflection or to mirror the face.

Trials and Difficulties and Hardships

(every single one of them has its purpose in exposing us and recreating us)

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Crisis, Pain, Sorrow – Heartbreak, Life !

These things will drive a man, a woman to either **destruction** or **deliverance**

1 Peter 4:12-14 NIV

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Galatians 4:19

My little children (infant babes), **for whom I labor** (have deep internal care in mind and body for) in **birth again** (an on-going delivery, never ending) until Christ is **formed** coming out of you **in you,**

Like-Minded Believers Will Become Your Friends

**“Show me a Weathered Christian
and I will show you a friend in the faith.”**

End of Study

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