

Gods Faithful People

Philippians 2:19-30

Pastor Chuck Smith taught us pastors to seek to have the best loved, best taught people & if we do, God will take care of the rest of ministry.

Don McClure shepherds school *'Crops don't grow where shadow of farmer doesn't fall'* It's true w/ church & pastors. Showing up is half the ministry.

Paul had the best loved, best taught people, his shadow fell over the church & believers--he was like a **mother hen** protecting her chicks.

In the mid-west at the turn of the 19th C, train tracks ran next to wheat fields. The train's engines were powered by on-board coal burning stoves or anything flammable that was fed into the burner. Problem was the engines' smokestacks spilt hot embers into the air & when the wheat or corn was ripe & ready for harvest it became a virtual tinderbox. Farmers often lost their crops & even their farms from raging crop fires set by cinder spewing locomotives. It happened to one farmer as his field caught fire & strong winds swept the flames toward his house & barn. His desperate attempts to save the homestead failed. In the aftermath, as he sifted thru the smoldering rubble, kicking debris, picking up charred remnants, he kicked what looked like a burnt tree stump & as he did, ½ dozen baby chicks scurried out from under the cooked carcass of their dead mother. It seems when the flames drew near, the mother hen gathered her chicks under her body to protect them from the oncoming inferno. As the fire passed over, she instinctively sheltered her offspring, giving her life that her baby chicks might be saved.

Paul like that mother hen, poured out his life 17 a drink offering, giving himself **wholly** for the gospel & the people. His goal to raise Godly servants, Timothy was one. He wanted Timothy to do the same. **2 Tim 2:2** *And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also* **Same hearted servants**

He had his share of disappointments—*Demas having loved this present world departed from me 2Tim 4:2*. But Timothy is *kindred*, like-spirit as him.

Proverbs contrasts two types of people—faithful & unfaithful. **Pr 25:13** *Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters. Pr 20:6* *Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy man?*

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Timothy was a faithful, loyal servant that Paul could depend on. But there are others in the church even leaders *Pr 25:19 Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot Is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble.* **Diotrephes** a pastor *3Jn 9...who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.*

Sometimes you take a chance on people...Jesus did w/ **Judas**, Paul did w/ **Demas** Even we need to be careful of ourselves... *Ps 19:12-14 Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. 13 Also keep back Thy servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.* **Self doubt** is healthy when asked how am I doing w/ the Lord.

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.

Paul *hopes*, doesn't name it & claim it--'*man plans his way Lord directs his steps*'—Paul's encouragement & joy was wrapped up in how believers were doing. Ministry is servant-hood-*served w/ me*-giving your life away...*Matt 16:25 For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake **shall find it.***

Purpose & meaning in life is not by getting more but giving more. When go out of your way to do for others there is a sense of wellbeing & satisfaction that you brought joy & relief to someone else—**Glen, nurse, electric car**

Proven worth of Timothy- Lit process & result of trial, approved character, proof of genuineness. Met Timothy second mission Acts 16 took him

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Timothy had same heart *kindred spirit* as Paul serving Lord—same thinking, feeling, teaching, attitude—Today *internet celebrity # followers*—more about self & popularity *than best loved, best taught* as Paul/Tim *kindred* like minded-equal souls.

Tim proven character ministering w/ Paul...some fake it, hide it, pretend it, but eventually what is true is found out...*proving* process takes time & is seen by others especially discerning believers....*Karen filled w/ himself....if he would have gone in like he came out...* Lot of enduring hard experiences, spiritually to get to kind of person Tim...even at young age....dad not believer-did he live in shadow of severe father-Paul became spiritual father

Send shortly when see how things goes w/ me...Paul in prison & Tim a source of encouragement. It's good to be around these kinds of people-*Osmosis*. My wife-we not do exciting or great things but just together--a lot different by myself. She brings greatest elements just by her presence.

Paul hopes he is released from prison & comes but no record that he does

Paul sees two kinds of people in the church, those interested in things of Christ and those more concerned w/ personal interest. Tim had *genuine concern for church*—sincerely-worried-anxious about-go to pieces.

New life in Christ will eclipse old life of self when Holy Spirit controls you. Old life says what benefits do I get if I serve? Plague of any church is to have worldly minded people doing spiritually minded ministry. Me centered instead of Christ/people centered

Paul tells truth about those who serve the church and those who use the church, seeking after their own interest not Christ. People are fickle.

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Paul wanted to know what was going on to be encouraged or correct

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 shall be coming shortly. 25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; 26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly in order that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. 29 Therefore receive him in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

Again Paul *hopes to send*, it's God's timing & will--**James 4:13-16NKJ** *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.*

Longing for you straining after, full of heaviness for you, having great affection. Greatest of all is love shown in compassion

Epaphroditus a useful servant to Paul & church...not all were as close to Paul as Tim but were just as close to Lord as Tim and Paul were to each other...God is not a respecter of persons. **Chuck** loved Hawaii I loved to be w/ him but only a few guys were like a Tim to him, maybe only one, Don but Don & Jean love to be w/ us—so my desire realized.

He sick to point of death but God had mercy—not positive confession, name it & claim it, speak health into existence. Church was concerned which distressed E heaviness, tore him up that you were worried ...*when one part hurts*....

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Paul's life & joy consumed w/ condition of church--only Holy Spirit can take a life & make other more important than yourself. Thinking what is best for God's people. So he plans to send Tim his most trusted like minded also E a brother in the Lord, fellow worker, fellow soldier, messenger & minister to Paul. Jesus had the 70, 12, 3

Paul is honest w/ their faith they were *deficient*-- a defect, shortcoming, what is lacking, poverty of spirit—Believers who think w/ mind of world & not w/ mind of Christ never grasp true ministry—it's only known when fully immersed in Christ. If not it's like sideline believer or like armchair quarterback yelling at TV as if knowing better than those in the game

Charles Spurgeon "A half committed Christian is the most miserable person on earth. He is just enough in the world to be miserable in the presence of God, and he's just enough into God to be miserable in the world."