

THE WORK OF CHRIST
PHIL. 2:25-30

Introduction:

- A. The title may be misleading, this message has to do with our work for Christ, not His work for us.
 - 1. v30.
 - 2. It is "the work," same as "the way," "the man," "the book."

 - B. In these verses we see how many different people were involved in "the work of Christ."
 - 1. Paul, apostle and missionary.
 - 2. Epaphroditus, a servant of Philippians.
 - 3. The Philippian church.

 - C. Their work was different and yet it was the same.
 - 1. It was not, "Paul's work," or Epaphroditus' work, or the Philippian churches work, it was Christ's work.
 - 2. It is the same idea expressed to the Ephesians.
 - 3. Eph. 4:1-4.
 - 4. There are "ones" but they are all to be a unit "for the work of Christ."
- I. PAUL, PREACHER, APOSTLE, SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST.
- A. Paul had come to them with the gospel.
 - 1. Acts 16:11-12.
 - 2. The Philippian Jailer.

 - B. These people had never forgotten Paul.
 - 1. Phil. 4:15-18.
 - 2. He had sacrificed to preach, they in turn sacrificed that he might preach.

II. EPAPHRODITUS, A WORK FOR JESUS.

A. What he was to Paul.

1. Paul did not use the same words to describe his relationship to epaphroditus as he did to Timothy.
 - a. Likeminded, "same souled" = v20
 - b. Paul did not say things that were not true.
 - c. All men are not preachers, all preachers are not equal in ability.
2. He was Paul's brother.
3. He was Paul's "companion in labor."
4. He was Paul's "fellow-soldier."

B. What he was to the church.

1. "your messenger."
2. messenger = apostle = ambassador, envoy.
3. This in no way detracts from his position, he was in his place doing his part in, "the work of Christ."
4. He carried money to Paul, Paul thought it important.

C. He was a brave and devoted man.

1. He risked his life to serve. v30
2. It doesn't say he wasn't afraid, but he did the work anyway.
3. "not regard," not to care for, neglect.
4. Acts 15:25-27.
5. They are referred to as, "gamblers," or riskers.
6. Acts, "hazarded," "to hand over to another."

D. He was a kind and considerate man.

1. v26.
2. He was sick but he was concerned about their grief for him.
3. He did not use his illness to punish them.

- E. He was an honest man, he was really sick. v27a.
 - 1. He was sick, "nigh unto death."
 - 2. Not homesick, but really sick.

- F. He was a praying man.
 - 1. It doesn't say he prayed, but do you doubt it!
 - 2. It doesn't say Paul prayed, but do you doubt it!
 - 3. God had mercy on him and Paul.
 - a. Our lives are tied together.
 - b. Paul sent him promptly, because his life was an answer to prayer. v28.
 - c. If we pray for something and God grants it, we better use it the way we prayed!

IV. THE CHURCH WAS TO HONOR HIM. V19

- A. "receive him in the Lord with gladness."
 - 1. "give him a hearty Christian welcome."
 - 2. Express your joy to him!

- B. "and hold such an one in reputation."
 - 1. "hold in honor and respect."
 - 2. Honor him for his act of bravery.

V. OUR LESSON, WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.