

CARING FOR OTHERS

Philippians 2:19-24

We should follow Paul and Timothy's example of Christian care.

I. PAUL'S COMMITTED CARE (19, 23-24)

A. INVOLVEMENT

1. Initiative (19a) > I'm sending Timothy
2. Interest (19b) > I want to know of your condition
3. Information (23) > I will keep you informed!
4. Intentions (24) > I'm coming as soon as I can

B. SUBMISSION (19, 23)

1. Paul's plans were subject to God's approval and not merely human calculation
2. We can never be completely definite about our plans - Note James 4:14-16
3. Even our care for others is subject to God's sovereign plans
- See Rom. 1:13 and I Cor. 4:19

C. OPTIMISM (19)

1. "That I also may be encouraged"
2. He was expecting the best from them

II. TIMOTHY'S COMMENDABLE CARE (20-23)

A. SELFLESSNESS (20-21)

- Paul knows ...

1. The Qualities (20)
 - a. Exceptional: A kindred spirit
 - b. Sincere: Genuinely concerned
 - c. Focused: On their wellbeing
2. The Contrast (21)
 - a. Most are not like Timothy
 - b. Most are self-absorbed and not spiritually oriented
 - c. The uninvolved and selfish were a disappointment to Paul
- Consider John-Mark in Acts 13:13 and 15:38 as well as Demas in II Tim. 4:10

Over please >

B. PROVEN-NESS (22)

- The Philippians know ...

1. His Character: Timothy had been observed as being consistent over time
2. His Service: He served with me
3. His Partnership: As a son with a father

C. READINESS (23)

- Timothy knows ...

1. Paul could send him at once
2. Some were not so eager - Consider Apollos in I Cor. 16:12

III. OUR CONSIDERED CARE (Application)

- A. Would our ways encourage other Christians? (19)
- B. Could we be trusted with an important mission? (20)
- C. Are we willing to be uncomfortable for Christ's causes? (21)
- D. How have we proven ourselves as Christian workers? (22)
- E. What news are we excited to tell? (23)
- F. Whom do we long to see? (24)

CONCLUSION:

Look to the right and see;
 For there is no one who regards me;
 There is no escape for me;
No one cares for my soul.
 - Psalm 142:4

Who around or among us is crying out, "No one cares for my soul?"

Will you be a caring Christian?

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