

SACRIFICIAL SERVICE

Philippians 2:25-30

We should serve sacrificially like Epaphroditus.

I. THE EXCEPTIONAL SERVANT (25-27)

- A minister!

A. HIS DESCRIPTION (25a)

1. A great companion
 - a. Brother: United in faith
 - b. Worker: United in labor
 - c. Soldier: United in battle
2. Highly commended
 - This servant is far more than ordinary though possessing nothing extraordinary

B. HIS CHARACTER (25b- 27)

1. Serving (25b)
 - a. As a messenger: Their envoy
 - b. As a minister: Paul's helper
2. Sensitive (26)
 - a. His Condition: Longing and distressed
 - b. His Compassion: It bothers him that they are bothered
3. Sold-out (27)
 - a. His sickness: He nearly died
 - b. God's mercy: Restoring Epaphroditus and relieving Paul

II. THE HONORABLE SERVANT (28-30)

- Esteemed!

A. HIS RETURN (25a & 28)

1. Thoughtfully sent (25a)
2. Eagerly sent (28)
3. Purposely sent

B. HIS RECEPTION (29)

1. Welcome Him
2. Celebrate Him
3. Respect Him!

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C. HIS COMMENDATION (30)

1. He risked his life and nearly died!
2. He did not do this for a thrill or notoriety
3. This service was rendered
 - a. For the work of Christ
 - b. For the welfare of Paul

CONCLUSION:

Duty is the sublimest word in our language.
Do your duty in all things.
You cannot do more,
you should never do less.

- Robert E. Lee

Epaphroditus served! Do we?