

he will joy and rejoice. This will also cause the Philippian believers to joy and rejoice together along with him in the day of Christ.

TIMOTHY AND EPAPHRODITUS (Philippians 2:19-30)

1. (a) What great words does Paul speak concerning Timothy in Philippians 2:20? _____

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- (b) How does Paul describe the relationship of that of he and Timothy? (Philippians 2:22)

The next person Paul mentions, is Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus is one of those self-sacrificing Christians like Paul mentions in Philippians 2:4,5, where he says, *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others*. He was Paul's brother and companion in labor, and fellow soldier; and the messenger to the Philippian Church, who also ministered to Paul's wants (Philippians 2:25).

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2. In Philippians 2:27, Paul tells the believers that Epaphroditus had been sick.

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- (a) What caused his sickness? (Philippians 2:30)

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- (b) How sick was he? (Philippians 2:27) _____

He almost died, because of the work of the min-

istry and: trying to do for Paul the things the Philippian believers could not do because of their distance from him. “Now I am anxiously sending him back home to you again,” Paul says, “because he is homesick for all of you, and he was troubled that you heard he was sick; and receive him with great joy and appreciation. Honor him with high esteem” (Philippians 2:26-30).

Epaphroditus means Lovely, charming.

The early Christians called those who hazarded their lives for Christ *parabolani*, or “the riskers,” as Aquila and Priscilla risked their lives for Paul (Romans 16:4). Epaphroditus—for the sake of Christ—had been willing to risk his life by becoming associated with a man who was being tried by the government. By doing so he had been able to supply in person what the Philippians themselves, because of distance, were unable to do (cf. Col.1:24). ¹

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 9, p. 331.