

Philippians 2:25–30

“The Great Effort, Intense Emotion, and Willing Sacrifice of True Christian Life and Ministry”

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Philippians chapter 2 our portion this afternoon is verses 25 through 30, let's pray.

Forward we marvel at the love in which you have predestined to us. Not only to be made right with you. Not only to be adopted into the status and union with your son. But that you have predestined us to be conformed to his image. And to have his joy.

His love for you his joy in you. And all the fruit that your spirit produces. When he makes us to be like Christ. So we thank you for this chapter in your word. And how it has set. Christ before us and instructed us to have a mind like his and.

Promised us that you are the one who works in to us that which we are commanded here to work out. When we pray that as we come to this last portion your spirit would use this part to. In conforming us to Jesus and glorifying him in whom you have been pleased most to glorify yourself and in his name we ask it.

Amen. Philippians 2 verses 25 through 30, these are God's words yet. I considered it necessary to send to you the path for badness my brother fellow worker and fellow soldier. But your messenger the one who ministered to my need since he had been since he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

For indeed he was sick almost unto death, but God had mercy on him not only on him but on me also but I should have soul upon sorrow. Therefore. I sent him the more eagerly that when you see him again, you never drace and I may be last soulful.

Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness. And holds such men in esteem. Because for the work of Christ, he came close to death not regarding his life. To supply what was lacking in your service. Toward me. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. Christ is our ultimate example and not only are ultimate example, but he is the one to his image we are being conformed.

And this chapter has been setting that before us telling us to have in us the mind that is in Christ Jesus and then setting Christ and his self-sacrifice. And his offering unto God before us and his exaltation his glory and having done so and then commanding us to work out our own salvation and then the apostle talking about his own ministry and then setting before us also the example of Timothy whom he's going to send as soon as he figures out how things have gone with him, but mentioning Timothy's proven character and now as he said, immediately sends a password says esteemed him and says a blessing to us that he doesn't just tell us be like Jesus this is what Jesus is like be like Jesus he also gives examples of what sinners who have been saved by grace and are being conformed to Christ look like because we are sinners have been saved by grace and so we have here the last of the examples in a series of them in this chapter.

As we consider what he tells us here about a patheticus we find that true Christian life and ministry involves hard work. Intense feeling. And self-sacrifice. First true Christian life and ministry involves hard work. Your first emphasis as his brother which if you're a Philippian and you're reading about your elder Patrick artist that the church got together and said yeah we can afford to send him with Paul, you know puff out a little bit because he only referred to Timothy as his son.

Now in this list of titles or names pet names that not really pet names is list of descriptive. Names that he gives to a patheticus here, he attaches proper to fellow worker and fellow soldier. That's perhaps even one little higher but it's very strong commendation for a pathis and this of course would have been encouraging to them that the one they sent did have the effect that they desired he had ministered to Paul.

He filled up with all the Philippians the, Drop over thing and minister Paul but that's not the way the Christian life works does it? We're most of us almost all of us called to ordinary every day faithfulness in our lives and that is what we have been commanded to but not as the other two names that he attaches besides my brother and your messages.

And fellow soldier. In other words, Christian life and ministry involves learning and putting into practice against obstacles work overcomes obstacles by skill and knowledge applied with effort. And that just obstacles but even opponents. Remember when we were seeing this morning in Ephesians chapter 6 and remembering that we have an adversary who who attacks.

And so he didn't. Fellow worker he says fellow soldier. There's danger and there's enmity. There's overcoming opposition. There the Bible does not know anything of an effortless enemy less painless. Christianity, although the church is full of Satan's ministers who announced such a thing to the church just like Satan himself tried to tempt our Lord to have a kingdom without a cross.

But the Bible doesn't know that kind of Christianity the Bible says that after his first missionary journey. Paul and Barnabas went around to all the churches when they were about to leave back for Antioch and encouraged them all that. Through many tribulations who must enter the kingdom of God, the Christian life has effort effort is not the opposite of grace it's that for which we need grace that Christ's righteousness and Christ's life and Christ's strength would produce the kind of effort that if an apostle was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit about you and how you serve in the church and how you serve in your home and how you honor Christ and everything would refer to you as fellow worker fellow soldier.

Now there is a temptation among those who were of Greek background to think almost entirely in terms of grammar logic and rhetoric in fact some of you probably at some point in your journey through figuring out about a educate your children and perhaps are still there have at least considered classical education the Greeks were extremely logical well some of them the Greeks are a diverse groups, but some of them.

Would make Vulcans blush because of well you guys don't know Star Trek and you don't need to logically oriented people and sometimes in a culture that is obsessed with feeling.It's it's not just that we don't know how to think it's that we've mistaken feeling for thinking all together.

So in a culture that's obsessed with feeling we too can make a mistake when we come and we see well the Bible actually tells me how to feel and the Bible actually tells me not to be controlled by my feelings if there's a right emotional response to to every situation.

Sometimes I think we're tempted to fall off the other side of the horse and think that Christianity is all doctrine and doing but never any emotion.There's a big problem with that.Jesus expressed lots of emotion, in fact. I've gotten in my office right now and I've got someone that I want to lend it to so don't come running to ask for it one of the best volumes on the person and work of Christ, it's a collection of writings by BB Warfield and one of the best articles in that entire volume is called the emotional life of our Lord.

Just examining from scripture the feelings of Jesus Christ, well Jesus Christ had feelings and we're commanded to have the mind of Christ and there's a lot of feelings here in this last example in Philippians chapter 2, not only in the path right it's no very much in him but also in Paul and then even commanded to the Philippians.

Why was he sending a password? I was first 26 he was longing for you all why was he longing for them he was distressed why was he distressed because you had heard that he was sick well did that distress him because he wanted them to think that he was this invulnerable super soldier of a Christian no it distressed him because he knew that.

Trust that he was sick and he wants to alleviate then of their concerns just like many of you yeah when perhaps you're phone ran out of battery and you were late to get to your loved ones were eager to get home so that they wouldn't worry about you because you were over your time or something like that and there's so there's this longing and there's this distress over there distress and and when Paul says God had mercy upon him he said well, I'm just on him.

Because as I take Christ in hell, I love my brother I would have had soil upon sorrow if aphroditus had died in fact. I currently have some soul that you have some sorrow because you heard that he was sick and so on eager to send him to you so that when he gets there and I know that you will be rejoicing and the verse 28 then my soul level that I currently hold now will decrease.

Not.And.Emotionally motionless view of what the Christian life is like in aphroditus and in Paul and even in his command receive him there for the Lord he says gladness commands and and emotion for them so we found here in this last installment of having in us the mind of Christ and working out our own salvation and the examples that we've been given the true Christian life and ministry of.

Biblical Christian life and ministry and it includes effort and it includes intense emotion and then it also includes self-sacrifice it no you are to be a good steward of what God has given you and there is there is such a thing as not getting enough sleep and then you go to bed late and wake up early says the scripture and and God gives to his beloved sleep and there is such a thing as recognizing that you're not getting enough exercise the apostle commands the when he's instruct.

Ed Timothy he does tell him indeed bodily exercise profits a little and there's certainly such a thing as failing to find your daily rest in those times set apart to God morning and evening is exemplified in the sacrifices and your weekly spiritual rest also in him so there is such a thing as all those things.

But there is not this obsession with taking care of yourself as well as possible so that you can feel as as tired and you know being a shiny magazine cover of a human being so you go to therapy every other week or every other month and sit in front of somebody who went to school for you know, 20 years to tell you how to achieve ballots.

Is is actually commended here by being balanced.This way was because he knew that it was costing him and could even cost his life.But was willing to expend himself anyway now there is a greater liberty isn't there because we're all sinners and all watching against our sin it's part of the reason Paul sends him back he doesn't say good.

I just good ministry yourself into that grave and you know writes to the Philippians. Bafferty to serve really well on his dead, sorry.So he does care for his brother and it's not our place to like to be especially go around to our brothers and sisters saying you are serving hard enough but we should watch out for those who are always preaching to us self-care.

And are never preaching to us self-sacrifice for Christ and the care of others.Because that is where the emphasis lies in how those who are imitating Christ and being conformed to his mind worked out in their lives that is where the emphasis lies in in the Bible's instruction to us so if the very worldly don't find you at least a little bit in balance you could probably serve more as a rule of thumb whatever the case the mindset is one of self-sacrifice.

The apostles says all for your bodies by the mercies of God, I tell you all for your bodies as living sacrifices, they didn't forget how he started chapter 12 when later in the chapter he's giving a list of things that people find themselves in a position to do or become providentially their rules in the church.

We are to live and minister self-sacrificially as opposed to self-pleasingly or self-gratifyingly and to be willing even to not regard our life if that is ultimately what ends up being necessary.Um,There may come a day.Not because you worked yourself to death or ministered yourself to

death. But when.

There was an actually. Not just highly contagious but highly deadly disease. And people needed to be ministered to. And we didn't decide to all cut ourselves off from one another. But we're willing that if the way that I left this world because I can't stay. Was going to be in God's providence that I ministered to someone else who was leaving this world and most desperately needed then.

That's an okay way. To leave the world.

If you are given the option of worshiping or being imprisoned or killed. Or if they hold the, Saw or sword to your neck. And say just renounce Christ. Just. Say the statement vowing your allegiance to Islam or communism. Or. Whatever we're going to end up be calling whatever the woke monster is, that is arising.

If the Lord permits it to continue. And you say if the last thing I say is Jesus is Lord. That is a wonderful last thing to say in this world. See Christians are willing to sacrifice themselves. It's just for what? So what we see in this last example of being conformed to the mind of Christ exemplified.

Is a true Christian life and ministry involves hard work it involves intense emotion. And it does involve self-sacrifice and spray.

We thank you Lord for your marvelous word how the riches of your word have poured out unto us today and how you yourself have been at the heart of all of it. Give us we pray even as we asked earlier from Ephesians that strengthening of your Almighty power by your spirit.

That we may know the love of Christ. It's length and width and height and breadth. Grant unto us to love you because you first loved us working in us the mind and life of Christ. Help us we pray to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we have been called will manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

For we ask it in his name. Amen.