

Philippians #33

“Pastor Epaphroditus”

A good pastor with a good congregation

*Philippians 2:25-30*

*“A camel is a horse designed by a committee”*

*Anonymous*

**We know less of the Apostle Paul than we know of Jesus; we know less of Timothy than we know of Paul and we know less of Epaphroditus than we know of Timothy but we do know they all had *the mind of Christ*.**

Having the *mind of Christ* is to consider the needs of others as more important than our own.

**A plugger or hard-worker is never truly appreciated until he is gone.**

A plugger is always a stable consistent person.

*‘Brother’ is used to indicate that we are now in the royal family of God, as of the point of salvation.*

**To further add to every generation whether they know about the military or not, the local church runs on authority.**

The large monetary offering took care of all of Paul’s material needs and will for the rest of his life, while the personal presence fellowship with Epaphroditus took care of a very definite spiritual need; the companionship of a fellow believer in Christ with whom he can relate.

A good pastor always falls in love with a positive congregation and not on the basis of personal relationship; it’s based upon those who come under his ministry and listen to the teaching of the

Word of God.

The interesting thing here is that Epaphroditus doesn’t want his congregation to be unhappy about anything; they were very unhappy because they had heard that he was dying and so, once again, we see the ‘mind of Christ.’

**But is a conjunction of contrast between Paul’s helplessness to heal Epaphroditus and God’s power that delivered him.**

God still had a purpose for Epaphroditus and the fact that Paul did not heal him anticipates the approach to the post-canon period of the Church Age in which the temporary gifts; like healing, tongues, miracles and apostleship were discontinued.

**The gifts of healing and miracles were used to establish Paul’s authority as an apostle.**

A temporary spiritual gift was designed to provide order and authority in the early church because the canon of Scripture for the New Testament for the Church had not been written.

Once the authority of the apostle was permanently established, his temporary spiritual gifts (calling cards), were removed.

**When Epaphroditus returns, they are going to stare at him because now they really appreciate him.**

Intensified happiness is the result of reaching the final objective of greater-grace status.

**“That I may have less anxiety/be less anxious” implies that Paul, now approaching ultimate greater-grace, will never be free from pressure.**

But we must remember that all pressure intensifies the blessing of greater-grace, so don't feel sorry for Paul.

The Philippians will concentrate on Epaphroditus' teaching because they know he's going to bring them all the way through to the ultimate in greater-grace status.

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A good congregation is relaxed about their blessings because they're occupied with Jesus Christ and they share the happiness of God, so they have capacity for life.

Epaphroditus was sick and he knew that going to Rome was a gamble and the percentages could go either way.

Here, the flock has a ministry to Epaphroditus and it's the warmth and love they give to him.