**First Baptist Church Taylorsville**

**May 3, 2019**

**Pressing Onward - A Study in Philippians**

***[A Christlike Example: Submissive, Selfless, Silent]***

**Philippians 2: 16-30**

In this text, we see three *real life* examples of those who model the servanthood of Christ (2:5-11).

These examples show us what it looks like to **press onward** toward Christlikeness in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life.

***Paul:*** *A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ servant (verses 16-18)*

Paul desperately wanted to see the Philippian church grow into maturity and Christlikeness.

When we **press onward** in Christlikeness, we too will be concerned with the health of our church and the advancement of the gospel in our community.

The Christian life is meant to be a life of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to others.

Paul was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God’s will for his life because he had full trust in God, His plan, and what God wanted to accomplish through him.

Paul knew that God directs everything in both his current a*nd* future life for His own glory and Paul’s good.

***Application:***

How do you think about your future decisions? A medical or health challenge? A job or career change? An investment, spending plan, or your giving strategy with your finances? Your retirement years?

Do you trust that God holds our future? Do we seek His will when we think about our future?

Because God knows what is best for us, loves and cares for us, we can be faithfully *submissive* to Him with our lives and our plans for the future.

***Timothy:*** *A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ servant (verses 19-24)*

In Timothy, we see a model of Christlike concern for others above our own personal interests.

Timothy selflessly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Paul and stuck by him during his imprisonment.

Timothy’s concern for the welfare of the Philippians and their progress in the faith is so great that he is literally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for them.

Timothy shows us a tangible example of what it looks like for us to lay aside our preferences and privileges for the sake of others.

***Application:***

Be encouraged by the example of Timothy who himself was prone to fear, worry, and his anxiousness for the task.

If you feel inadequate like Timothy did, remember the conquering work of Jesus Christ and the strength that He supplies you.

***Epaphroditus:*** *A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ servant (25-30)*

In Epaphroditus, we see the example of one who contently serves the church quietly, in the background and without fanfare or recognition.

Though little is known about him, Paul’s own testimony about Epaphroditus shows that he was a man of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and high \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Even though Epaphroditus served in virtual obscurity, he still was found faithful and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward Christ as he served the church and ministered to his community.

***Application:***

May you and I find ourselves to be people who serve faithfully *even if* and *especially* when the job goes unnoticed and without recognition.

***Take Home Truths:***

Be encouraged that in God’s grace we can see these *real-life* examples of Christ and follow them ourselves.

Look around you:

Whose example are you following?

Is your example worth following?

**Blanks: everyday; submissive; commitment; submissive; selfless; served; anxious; silent; faithfulness & Character; pressed onward;**