

## “How to Study a Bible Passage”

“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone else looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honour men like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.”  
- Philippians 2:19-30

### OBSERVATION: What does it say?

- **I observe that Paul intends to send two men to Philippi.**  
“I hope to send you Timothy.” - Philippians 2:19  
“I think it is necessary to send Epaphroditus back to you.” - Philippians 2:25
- **I observe that Paul endorsed these men as role models.**  
[Timothy] “I have no one else like him!” - Philippians 2:20  
[Epaphroditus] “Welcome him... HONOUR men like him.” - Philippians 2:29
- **What does it mean to be like these men?**  
“takes a genuine interest.” - Philippians 2:20,21  
“has proved himself.” - Philippians 2:22  
“my brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier.” - Philippians 2:25  
“longs for all of you and is distressed.” - Philippians 2:26  
“almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life.” - Philippians 2:27-30

### INTERPRETATION: What does it mean?

“I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone else looks out for his own interests...” - Philippians 2:21  
“genuinely cares for you ... others only care about themselves...” - Phil. 2:21 (TEV)  
“...they are all wrapped up in their own affairs...” - Phil. 2:21 (Phillips)

### 1. A godly man is caring.

“Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father, he has served with me in the work of the gospel.” - Philippians 2:22

“...you know what kind of person Timothy proved to be.” - Phil. 2:22 (God’s Word)

### 2. A godly man is consistent.

“I send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.” - Phil. 2:25  
“he has worked and fought by my side.” - Philippians 2:25 (Good News)

### 3. A godly man is cooperative.

“For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill” - Phil. 2:26

### 4. A godly man is considerate.

“Indeed he was ill, and almost died... he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you couldn’t give me.” - Phil. 2:27+30

### 5. A godly man is courageous.

### CORRELATION: What other verses explain it?

- **Timothy:** 1 & 2 Timothy
- **Epaphroditus:** Philippians 4:14-18
- **Key Words:** What key words are also found elsewhere?
- **Key Resource:** [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

### APPLICATION: What am I going to do about it?

- **S.P.A.C.E.P.E.T.S.** [Is there a sin to confess? Is there a promise to claim? Is there an attitude to change? Is there command to obey? Is there an example to follow? Is there a prayer to pray in this verse? Is there an error to avoid? Is there a truth to believe? Is there something I can thank God for?]
- **I should do something!** [Personal, practical, possible, provable]

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