

encouragement. He was a representative from the Philippian church. While visiting and helping Paul he had become sick and nearly died. His greatest concern was not over his own critical illness, but that his home church had heard about it and he didn't want them to be unduly distressed (v.26).

We see in Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus the secret of true encouragement--self-giving without self-pity. It is clearly self-forgetfulness.

Do you want to be an encouraging Christian? Remember, the ultimate source of encouragement is not people but God. Go to Him for fresh encouragement--then go out and encourage others. --JEY

*It may seem insignificant
To say a word or two,
But when it is encouragement,
What wonders it can do! --K. De Haan*

Even if you have nothing else to give, you can give encouragement.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Encouraging People



... that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. --Philippians 2:19

Encouraging others is a vital ministry. But Paul's letter to the Philippians illustrates that it can also be costly.

Even though he was sitting in prison and benefiting from Timothy's fellowship, Paul planned to send him to minister to the Philippians and learn how they were doing. He chose Timothy because all others focused on themselves rather than on Christ (2:21). A good report from him would encourage Paul (v.19).



Epaphroditus was also a man who practiced selfless

Insights for Living Your Service Counts



We highlight four themes that are illustrated by Timothy's life:

1. Value Christian _____,



Saved with
baggage

(2 Timothy 1:5) "when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also."

(2 Timothy 3:15) "and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."



David McCasland

2. Have a _____ the faith, Acts 14:6-7

(2 Timothy 1:2) "... a beloved son: ..."

(1 Timothy 1:2) "... a true son in the faith: ..."

(1 Corinthians 4:17) "... my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, ..."



Bill Crowder

3. Be _____, Acts 16:1-3

(1 Timothy 1:18) "This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,"

(1 Timothy 4:14) "Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership."

(2 Timothy 4:5) "But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

(Philippians 2:19-22) "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. {20} For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for



your state. {21} For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. {22} But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel."

(Philippians 3:10) "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,"

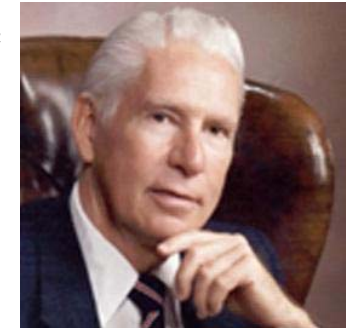
4. Be _____, Acts 17:14-15, 18:1, 5, 19:22

(1 Corinthians 4:17) "For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church."

(1 Corinthians 16:10) "Now if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do."

(Philippians 1:1) "Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints ...:"

(2 Timothy 2:2) "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."



LeRoy Eims

