

Community Group Sermon Application Questions- Week of Sunday 11/17

Philippians 2:19-30: "Portraits of Great Faithfulness"

Central Truth: What we believe rings hollow without a consistent godly example because God uses godly examples to encourage us and spur us on to love and good deeds.

Begin by reading the passage together. In this passage we see:

2 Portraits of Faithfulness: Timothy- "The Single-minded Servant" Epaphroditus- "The Courageous Co-laborer"

- 1) How does it strike you that amidst the deep theology in chapter 2 Paul includes this long section about the faithful examples of these two men? What does it communicate about the Christian life when we see good doctrine coupled with consistent godly living? How about when we don't see it?
- 2) Why are consistent (and often unspectacular and unnoticed) and sacrificial godly examples so important for our Christian life? What do these examples teach us?
- 3) What does it look like to genuinely care about the interests of others (v. 20)? Give examples of when you have been the recipient of this kind of care and how it impacted you.
- 4) Consider again Paul's description of Epaphroditus in verse 25-26. How is this man a model worth following (Paul says in verse 29: "Hold people like him up in honor.")? What are some practical ways we can honor some of the "unsung" faithful servants at our church?
- 5) This passage clearly shows us that serving Jesus will cost us. Why is the cost and inconvenience worth it? What does costly Christian living look like for us?

 Practically, how can we be more like Timothy and Epaphroditus and less like the comfort-driven culture that surrounds us?