

A MAN AND HIS FRIENDS

March 23, 2005

“The Worth of a Genuine Friend!”

“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon...For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare. For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. But you know of his proven worth.... But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need...Therefore receive him in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.”

Philippians 2:19-21, 25, 29-30

SUMMARY:

WE NEED EACH OTHER...that is the one lesson in life that I have learned! If you were to put a ‘price tag’ on the value or worth of your friendships...what would it be? The Apostle Paul introduces us to two ‘treasured friends’—Timothy and Epaphroditus—let’s see some of the qualities he ‘valued’ in these men.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: It has been stated, ‘In order to have friends, we first need to be-friend others!’ How would your friends say that YOU measure up against the qualities highlighted today?

Discussion:

*Do you have an easy or difficult time in establishing friendships?

*List some important qualities that you ‘value’ in a true friend.

*Looking at the four qualities mentioned today—‘kindred spirit, genuine concern for others, a servant’s heart and a risk-taker—why are these important ingredients to ‘true friendship?’

*Epaphroditus was a risk-taker...part of the ‘society of parabolani’...those who laid their lives on the line to help others. Have you ever taken a ‘risk’ or literally put your life on the line to help someone else?

APPLICATION:

*When God sends a Timothy into our lives, He expects us to R_____!

*When God sends an Epaphroditus to minister to our needs, He expects us to R_____ him!

*Since God sent Jesus Christ to take away our sins and bring us to heaven, He expects us to R_____ Him!

ON YOUR OWN...

Scriptures: Philippians 2:3-4, 19-30

1 Samuel 18:1, 20:17

Acts 16:1-3

2 Timothy 1:5