

# Shedding Light on Living Above Your Circumstances #6

## Heroes

### Philippians 2: 19-30

#### Introduction

Interwoven in the teaching & doctrines found in the Bible are the stories of men & women just like you & me.

Sometimes the biographies found in Scripture illustrate a negative truth: the story of Adam & Eve, Lot or David explain the consequences of sin. Other times these biographies illustrate positive truths... & that is the case of the two people mentioned in the last half of Philippians Chapter 2.

#### **I. Timothy: Model of Unselfish Service (Phil. 2:19-24)**

##### **A. *The Situation...***

Paul was under house arrest in Rome, but his heart was with the Christians at Philippi. From the news he had received from Epaphroditus, the messenger they had sent with the love gift, Paul knew that the Church was having some difficulty. Paul wished he could be there himself, but that was impossible; so he was going to send Timothy.

##### **B. *The Person***

Although his mother Eunice & Grandmother Lois carefully taught him the truth of God's Word, it is evidently the Apostle Paul who led him to faith in Christ. **Acts Ch. 16** tells us that on Paul's second missionary journey he enlisted Timothy to travel with him & they eventually ended up in Philippi where they established the first Church in Europe.

##### **C. *The Qualities***

##### **(i) Timothy had a single focus (2:20-21)**

Paul saw the tepid commitment in those around him. There aren't that many Christians who are unconditionally committed to Christ. That is why Timothy stood out to the Apostle Paul. He was singularly devoted to the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, regardless of the personal cost.



## **(ii) Timothy had a proven track record (v. 22)**

If your branches go out further than your roots go deep, you eventually topple. Paul did not let Timothy make that mistake. He spent time helping him deepen his spiritual root system before he became involved in ministry.

## **II. Epaphroditus: Model of Unusual Courage (Phil. 2:25-30)**

### ***A. The Situation & the Person***

Epaphroditus was the leader in the Philippian Church sent on the eight-hundred-mile journey to Rome to deliver the love gift to Paul. The Church intended for him to stay with Paul & minister to him while he was in prison. However, Epaphroditus became very sick, so Paul sent him back to Philippi as soon as he recovered.

### ***B. The Courage***

Epaphroditus was willing to gamble his life in order to fulfil his ministry. He risked his life by coming to Rome in search of Paul & by being associated with a known “criminal” like Paul.

## **Conclusion...**

God honours those who have the courage to gamble their own life for the sake of the Gospel.

