

Philippians: Looking Out For Number One| Philippians 2: 19-30

- 1. THINK:** What are some evidences of Paul's love for the Philippians? What are some proofs you can find in today's text that Paul truly loved these people? **DO:** Think through your own life and how you love others? How do you know you are truly loving them or just wanting to appease them and 'get their need covered quickly' so you can get on with your life? List some things that serve as proofs that you are truly invested in those around you?
- 2. THINK:** The Philippians are not just casual people to Paul. They are beloved family and that family-ship is centered on the Gospel. What is it about the Gospel that cements believers together so uniquely? What all can you think of that should make us stand together and be together like no other group does? **DO:** Survey your life. Jesus said that those who believe and do the will of His Father were closer to Him than those of his physical family (Mark 3:33). What are some words you would use to describe how you treat other believers? What are some instances where you prioritize the family of God over others?
- 3. THINK:** What are some observations in the life of Epaphroditus that qualify him to be used of God and sent to the Philippians to encourage them? What's in his track record of experience? What qualities do you see that have cemented his character, giving him the ability to minister to them? **DO:** What has God used in your life to qualify you to be used of God? Why would God use or not use you?
- 4. THINK:** Biblical servant-hood means 'cost'. True servant-hood is giving up one's self for the sake of another. What are some observations in this text and from the sermon that pertain to what it cost Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus in serving the Philippians? **DO:** Make a list of all those 'costs' you can think of from the text then use those as a framework. With each cost, evaluate if this is present in your own life? Is what is costing you the same as what it cost Paul and the others?
- 5. THINK:** How much do you think of what it will cost you before you serve another? How much do you think of how much it might hurt you before you invest in another? How does it challenge you that Paul was writing from prison and that he was sending his very best man to the Philippians? **DO:** Make a list of conditions that must be met before you move on investing in another? Make a list of requirements you demand before you guarantee your involvement in something.

Qualifying Questions Before Investing In Someone

1. What do I own that I have not been given by God?
2. What do I own that God does not care about how I use it?

3. In what situations am I not required to live and give for God's glory?
4. What situations am I exempted from being the salt and light of Christ?
5. In what scenarios am I called to think of myself before others?
6. In what circumstances do I not have to think of how Jesus has served me before I serve others?
7. Are there any serving opportunities where I do not have to consider how the gospel of Christ serves me daily?
8. When I stand before Jesus and give an account, how often will he congratulate me for meeting my own needs before others?
9. How many of my days, numbered by God, have been allotted to be minimally concerned about the needs of others or reaching the world for Christ?