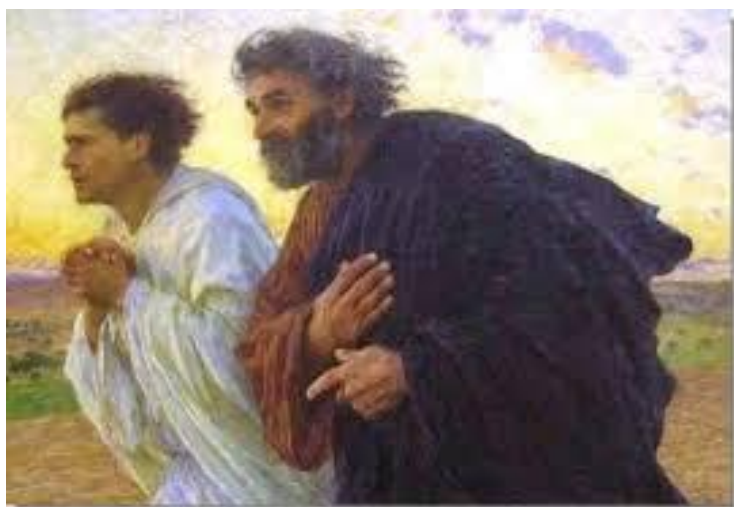


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The Examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus

2: 19-30



The initial examples as models of a **Messiah**-like mindset are two of **Paul's** co-workers: **Timothy** (**to see link click [Bc](#) - I Hope to Send Timothy Soon**) and **Epaphroditus** (see **[Bd](#) - Send Epaphroditus at Once**). By highlighting two men his readers would have been very familiar with, **Paul** brings to life the doctrinal truths and ethical commands of **Chapter Two** (see **[Ar](#) - Philippians Chapter Two**). **Timothy** had been involved in the planting of the church in **Philippi** (see **[Acts By](#) - Lydia's Conversion in Philippi**), and **Paul** speaks of **him** in warm and praiseworthy terms here. **He** is confident that **the Philippians** share **his** high opinion of **Timothy (2:22)**, making **him** an easy model for **them** to embrace. Even closer to home is **Paul's** choice of **Epaphroditus** as the second model co-worker. As **their** messenger and minister to **Paul's** needs (**2:25**), **the Philippians** had someone from **their** own congregation whose life demonstrated the power of **Messiah**. If **the Philippians** pay careful attention to the lives of these two **men** and follow **their** example, **they** will find **themselves** living as citizens of **God's** Kingdom in a manner worthy of **the Gospel of Messiah**.

The most powerful form of teaching is that which has its content not only clearly explained, but beautifully illustrated. This is why elders in the congregations of **God**

are called not only to speak **the Word**, but to live **the Word (First Timothy 4;12; Titus 2:7; Hebrews 13:7; and First Peter 5:3)**. By using **Timothy** and **Epaphroditus** as examples, **Paul** helps us see in very real terms what the mindset of **Messiah** looks like in everyday life. The use of two different men to exemplify **the Lord's** mindset and enables us to see their common features, while demonstrating that **the Master's** mindset is revealed in diverse ways. It also encourages us to identify people in our own lives who display the mindset of **Messiah** and emulate them.¹⁰⁰