

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
THREE SERVANTS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH
Philippians 2:16-30

It might be tempting to pass quickly over the last half of Philippians 2 with its personal references that may at first seem unimportant to us. But wait! Aren't they part of the inspired Word of God? Aren't they, with all Scripture, given by God for our instruction? What lesson would the Lord teach us from Paul's personal commendations of faithful servants of Christ and His church?

1. The Propriety of Commending Faithful Servants of Christ & His Church

Led by the Spirit, Paul commends these brothers. It can't be wrong! Consider:

Hebrews 13:7 – Take note of, remember, imitate godly leaders.

Revelation 14:13. - God receives & remembers to eternity
the labors and deeds of His redeemed people.

Phil.2:29 – “Hold men like him in high regard” (NASB).

“Honor such men” (ESV).

2. Then let us take note of these men and their commendable qualities.

Timothy (vv.19-24) – puts the interests of Christ & His church first

Epaphroditus (vv.25-30) – loves the church & risks his life to serve

& Paul himself (vv.16-20) – labors for the gospel, willing to die for it

Each in his own way displayed “the mind of Christ” (vv5-8)

3. But isn't this giving honor to men instead of God?

Idolatrous hero-worship is a great danger to be avoided.

BUT look at 1 Corinthians 15:9-10.

To honor faithful servants of Christ & of His church IS to honor Christ,

IF we are clear that their devotion & labors were ALL from the

grace of God working in and through them – Phil.2:13.

4. Why “honor such men”?

God does, in His Word! (Point #1)

This is how God teaches us: the principle of example & imitation.

Phil.3:17 – “Brethren, join in following my example.”

Phil.4:9 – “The things you have learned & received & heard & seen
in me, practice these things, & the God of peace will be with you.”

1 Cor.11:1 – “Imitate me, as I imitate Christ” (4:16)

2 Tim.3:10-14 – “You followed my teaching, conduct, purpose ...”

Small children do not learn by reading the Bible, but by watching their
parents (and others).

New Christian believers learn by observing older Christians.

This is an important reason for the “qualifications” for elders and
deacons – that they may serve as role models for others.

ALL believers should aspire & pray & strive by God's grace to become
examples – on the pattern of the mind of Christ (vv.5-8)..