

Volume V

August 11, 2013

No. 32

Epaphroditus: Model of Selflessness

Mike Noble

One reads of our title character only in the New Testament book of Philippians. Though only seven verses speak of the man, there is much to be gained by noting his example.

Epaphroditus was a member of the church at Philippi who had been chosen as the church's "messenger" to bear "aid" for Paul's "necessities," as the apostle awaited trial in Rome (Philippians 4:16-18). Paul sums up with these words the attitude of Epaphroditus towards the Lord's work: "because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service to me" (Philippians 2:30). Epaphroditus was a selfless individual.

But what seems to especially proclaim the selflessness of this man is a statement made in the 26th verse of chapter 2 -- that while he lay deathly ill in Rome, he "was longing for" the church at Philippi, "and was distressed because" they "had heard that he was sick." Think on that for a moment.

What goes through our minds when tragedy strikes our own lives? Financial hardship is felt...A devastating disease cripples our body... And about who or what are we thinking? Or perhaps things are not quite so tragic. We didn't get that bonus we desired...or things aren't going at work as we wished... or that fellow-members didn't invite me over for dinner last week...or...

The truth is, too many of us get so wrapped up in our own little world (and how the world affects us) that we think little or none about how our world might affect our brethren – or, for that matter, how the world in general is affecting them. (Be objective: how much care have you shown recently toward those who really are afflicted? For those who have lost a parent? For those who for some reason or another must deal with the hardship of raising a child without the help of their spouse? For those who are widows or fatherless? (James 1:27). Are we able to take our eyes off ourselves for just a few moments to notice the genuine cares of

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street P.O. Box 388 Athens, Alabama 35612 Phone (256) 232-1525

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes	
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	
Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin......(256) 232-7620 Kenneth Smith......(256) 777-6737 Bonnie Sutton......(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams	(256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz	(256) 232-3212
Joel Hamm	(256) 230-6223
Larry Mitchell	
Todd Williams	(205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl	(256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox(256) 233-8910 Cell: (256) 614-3757 Jordan Lovell.....(256) 777-8998

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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

others about us? Such was the spirit of Epaphroditus. His only concern as he lay on his deathbed was as to what effect his illness – the hearing of it – would have on the Philippian brethren.

In this Epaphroditus proved to be a true follower of Jesus. Paul had previously said, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus..." (Philippians 2:3-5). This humble "messenger" had such a "mind."

There are too many of God's children today who "seek their own" interests and welfare (Philippians 2:20). The Lord's cause sorely needs more men and women to imitate the example of self-denial as seen in Epaphroditus.

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1Timothy 4:12). -via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia.

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Is Your Heart Right With God?

Frank Jamerson

We sing a number of songs that emphasize the importance of the heart. One asks: "Have thine affections been nailed to the cross? Is thy heart right with God? Dost thou count all things for Jesus but lost? Is thy heart right with God?" Another says: "Give me thy heart, says the Father above, no gift so precious to Him as our love. Softly He whispers wherever thou art, Gratefully trust me, and Give my thy heart." Still another beseeches: "Purer in heart, O God, Help me to be; May I devote my life wholly to Thee; Watch Thou my wayward feet. Guide me with counsel sweet; Purer in heart, Help me to be."

All these songs are based upon Biblical principles. The wise writer said "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). Jesus said, "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things" (Matthew 12:34-35). Peter rebuked Ananias for allowing Satan to "fill his heart to lie to the Holy Spirit," and asked "why have you conceived this thing in your heart?" (Acts 5:3-4).

The heart can be pricked by hearing and understanding the truth (Acts 2:37). Having believed the truth, a person can "obey from the heart" what he believes and be saved (Romans 6:17-18). The same heart can lose that faith. "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12). If brethren who quit believing are still saved, then unbelievers are saved!

Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). Those who have been purified by obeying the truth are to "love one another fervently with a pure heart" (1 Peter 1:22). We cannot have a pure heart toward God unless we have the same attitude toward our brethren (1 John 4:20-21).

With the Psalmist, we should pray: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer" (Psalms 19:14).

~via Midway Messenger; Florence, Alabama.

Gospel Meeting

October 13-17, 2013

(Sunday through Thursday)

Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday– 7:00 p.m.

Gardner Hall, Speaking

Market Street church of Christ 514 West Market Street Athens, Alabama

The Power of Influence

David Padfield

Webster defines the word influence as "the power of persons or things to affect others, seen only in its effects." Though the word influence is only found one time in the King James Version, its meaning is on every page.

In the sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his disciples that they are the "salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13-16). There are many interesting things you can say about this figure of speech. Salt is totally worthless while sitting on a shelf, it has to be applied. Salt can also lose its "saltiness." When it loses its power to flavor, it is good for nothing and must be discarded.

Paul told the brethren at Corinth they were an "epistle of Christ known and read by all men" (2 Corinthians 3:1-3). Whether we like it or not, every Christian is an advertisement for Christ. It is rather scary to think the honor of Christ is in the hands of his disciples. Men of the world will judge Christ by the character of his followers.

Have you ever considered what type of an advertisement you are? One of our songs suggests that "We are the only Bible the careless world will read, We are the sinners gospel, we are the scoffers creed, We are the Lord's last message, given in deed and word, What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?

Much of the book of Proverbs is devoted to warning young men about their choosing their companions. "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20).

The majority of worldly people will pay very little attention to what we say, but our actions will always be scrutinized. When they think of our character and reputation, our actions will speak louder than our words. -via *The Cornerstone*, Richmond, Virginia

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. *Come Join Us As We Study Together* Beacon of Truth Radio Program

Every Sunday Morning

on WVNN 770AM – 92.5 FM 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Market Street church of Christ

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Benton Ball Jeanette Weir Betty Hastings Abby Gilbert Phillip Harwell Will Carl Sullivan Matt Poff Jerry Taylor Ava Brooke Cambell Barbara Piper Mot Beasley Wynell Casteel Gwen Bullock Michael Vaughn Una King Currier Charles White Anita Willis Robin Legg Charles Burns Elizabeth Kate Miller

In The Hospital:

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Beulah Pope, rm. 100Mattye Murray, rm. 60Harvey Pope, rm. 18Dorothy Draper, rm. 97Robert Johnson, rm. 18Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 75-B Albert Bowers, rm. 115-B Albert Norton, rm. 36 J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E Rosella Pugh, rm. 74

Limestone Lodge: Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor: Jack Cannon, rm. 82

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville: Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home Lola Colwell, at home Mary Ruth Gardner, at home David Rice, Mobile, Alabama Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

GOSPEL MEETING: The *North Huntsville church* in Harvest will begin its meeting on Friday, August 23rd, and it will continue through Sunday, August 25th. *Alton Bailey of Hayden* will be the speaker.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Coblentz': Tommy and Marcella* have been in Florida on vacation... *The Carters: Delmer and Margaret* are in Michigan this weekvisiting family... *The Lovells: Jordan, Heather, Aiden and Rylee* have been in Florida this past week... *Whitney and Mia Workman* have been in Florida on vacation.

LAKE JACKSON, TEXAS: It was good to be with the church on *Plantation Drive* and brother *Jesus' Trevino* who we help support. The work is going really well. The church there moved into a new and larger building about a year ago and are nearing capacity. Plans are to enlarge to the auditorium. The Trevinos' ask about the work here and sent their greetings and appreciation to all of the you here at Market Street.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 in the west wing auditorium. They are studying the book of *"Proverbs"*. All the ladies that can are invited to be a part of this class.

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember *Mitzi Carruth's* son-in-law, *Joel Smith*, who is in Afghanistan serving the U. S. military. Keep him in your prayers.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group Three will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Average Attendance for the month of July

Wednesday:

Bible Classes.....104



The Market Street church of Christ Website at: MarketStreet-church.com

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams Hunter Cox
Prayer	Ronnie Locke
Preaching Lord's Supper	David Cox
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
	Russ Wulfekuhl Will Chumbley Stefan FudgeBart Brown

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	
Prayer	Marion Mitchell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Other Assignments for Sunday	, August 11th:
Usher	Marvin Putman
Work Sound System	Nathaniel Adams

Wednesday, August 14th:

Song Leader	Jerry McGlocklin
Bible Reading	Mark 4:10-20
-	Danny Johnson
Prayer Invitation	Kenneth Adams
Invitation	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Sunday, August 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	
Prayer	Marty Adams
	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Ronnie Locke
Assisting	Kenneth Smith
Serving	Keith Hinkle Brandon Griswold
	Marvin Putman Bonnie Sutton
Closing Prayer	Mot Dollar

Evening Worship

Announcements	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 18th: UsherPaul Hasting Work Sound SystemLandon Adams