

“In My Absence”

Phil. 2:12-30

Paul Desired the Philippians

- To continue their faithful obedience
- To serve in a way that would cause him joy whether he lived or died
- To benefit from the ministry of faithful brethren

Paul Desired the Philippians

- To continue their faithful obedience

Philippians 2:12-13 ESV

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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Philippians 2:14-18 ESV

14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, ...

Deuteronomy 32:5 ESV

They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.

Acts 2:40 ESV

And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

Philippians 2:14-18 ESV

... among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

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 - Likely Timothy

Philippians 2:19-22 ESV

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

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 - Likely Timothy
 - Possibly Paul

Philippians 2:23-24 ESV

23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

Paul Desired the Philippians

- To continue their faithful obedience
- To serve in a way that would cause him joy whether he lived or died
- To benefit from the ministry of faithful brethren
 - Likely Timothy
 - Possibly Paul
 - Definitely Epaphroditus

Philippians 2:25-30 ESV

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Philippians 2:25-30 ESV

28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.

29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

In His Absence, Jesus Desires for Us...

- To continue their faithful obedience
- To serve in a way that would cause Him pride and joy when He returns
- To benefit from the ministry of faithful brethren

1 Corinthians 12:18 ESV

18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

1 Peter 4:10 ESV

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Your Faithful Service

- What can you be doing for the brethren?
- What can you be doing for the cause of Christ in this community?
- What did Christ bring you here for?

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