

## March 19, 2017, Philippians 2:25-30, "Highly Regarded"

<sup>25</sup> But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; <sup>26</sup> because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. <sup>27</sup> For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned *about you*. <sup>29</sup> Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; <sup>30</sup> because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me. Philippians 2:25-30

Layman's guide to Scripture:

### 1.) Context

<sup>29</sup> Otherwise, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? 1 Corinthians 15:29

### 2.) Content

### 3.) Connection

<sup>22</sup> But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25

Epaphroditus is a model of sacrifice.

#### A. In Relationship to Paul.

##### 1.) Brother

##### 2.) My fellow worker

##### 3.) My fellow soldier

<sup>3</sup> Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. 2 Timothy 2:3-4

#### B. In Relationship to the Philippian Church.

##### 1.) Messenger

##### 2.) Minister

<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; <sup>23</sup> and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, <sup>24</sup> whereas our more presentable members have no need *of it*. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked, <sup>25</sup> so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. I Corinthians 12:22-26

**William Barclay – *There should be in a Christian an almost reckless courage which makes him ready to gamble with his life to serve Christ and men.***