

WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

from Johnny Hunt

THE LOVING SERVANT OF GOD

PART TWO

Scripture: Philippians 2:26-30

I. INTRO: Paul wrote to the church in Philippians about Epaphroditus whose name literally means charming.

- A. Although mentioned only once, his amazing impact and influence in Paul's life is evident.
- B. Epaphroditus became a trusted companion of Paul during his imprisonment.

II. COMPASSION FOR THE SAINTS

- A. Sorrow and Longing (verse 26)
- B. Near Death
 - A. Endured sickness (verse 27)
 - B. Excessively concerned for the church in Philippi
 - C. Willing to offer his service (2 Samuel 24:24)

III. COMMITMENT FOR THE WORK

- A. Unreserved Commitment (verse 25)
 - A. A messenger on a mission
 - B. "My companion in labor" (1:12)
 - B. A minister who renders sacred service
- B. A Burdened Man for God's People
- B. Unselfish Attitude (verse 30a) – Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "We will have all eternity to enjoy our victories, but only one life in which to win them."
- C. Unrestrained Enthusiasm (verse 30)
 - A. Even though Epaphroditus was near death, nothing caused him to push back.
 - B. In the work of the Lord, Epaphroditus did not regard his life. Regarding in the Greek text means "to take a risk."

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. The Impact of Loving Servants of God
 - A. Paul mentioned them at the end of Colossians and Philippians.
 - B. God provided every major character in the Bible with someone to make a difference.
 - C. How can you hold up the hands of a servant the way Epaphroditus served and encouraged Paul?