

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

Trusted Helper

Lesson Twenty-Seven

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Lesson Goal: To assist students to know about being a good, trusted helper.

Scriptures: Philippians 2:19-24

For Memory: “But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father, he has served with me in the work of the gospel.”
Philippians 2:22

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Paul traveled many miles and went to many places in his missionary journeys. We are not certain what it was, but it is assumed that some physical problem made his travel and his work more difficult. Luke went with Paul, probably as his personal physician. About the same time that Luke joined Paul, Timothy also became part of the traveling band of missionaries. Timothy was a very young man at the time.

He came from a strong Christian family. Paul depended on him for many things. Near the time of his death, Paul asked Timothy to come to Rome and to stop along the way to pick up a coat he needed. Paul depended on Timothy and trusted him to be a real helper.

In these verses we find Paul commending Timothy in several ways. First, some people would adjust the news to make Paul feel better about the situation. However, Paul trusted Timothy to bring him all the news, which Paul expected to be good news about how well the Philippians were trusting and following God.*

Second, he says that there is no one else exactly like Timothy. Timothy is qualified for the task Paul is giving him. It could be that Paul is referring back to the earlier part of this chapter where he is encouraging the Philippians to have the attitude of Christ. And, he is saying here that Timothy fit that profile.

The third thing Paul said about Timothy is that he was genuinely interested in the welfare of the church at Philippi. He cared about them. He had spent time there as a leader in the church. Most likely, Timothy had spoken often of his friends there. Paul, knowing that he had the qualities of a good shepherd, could say with confidence that Timothy really cared for them.

Fourth, Timothy wasn't one of those people who look out only for themselves. He didn't ignore the problems of other people so that he could get his way and do what would make him feel good. Actually, Timothy put Jesus first. That meant that he was busy making sure that God's work was done and that people were told about the love of Jesus.

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Fifth, Timothy was a team player. This is related to the previous statement. He “proved himself.” Paul said that Timothy was like a son who worked with his father as a learner who would take the lead at some time in the future. As a very young man who left home and joined Paul’s missionary team, he was very focused on becoming good at the kind of ministry that Paul had. Paul trusted him enough to leave him behind, at times, to continue the work Paul had started.

What can today’s Christians learn from Timothy? Timothy could be trusted to speak the truth. Christians ought always to speak the truth in love. We should always be recognized as Christians. People should see Jesus in us. Christians ought to be the most caring people on earth, involved in the lives of those around us; helping them to be all that they can be. We should certainly put Jesus first, and others second. Christians personally, then, come in third in that kind of counting. Finally, Christians ought to always be team players. First, we should be on God’s team, but also on the Christian ministry team, helping tell the Good News to everyone who will listen to us.

Timothy was a great helper to Paul who, even though he was a great man and a great missionary, needed others to help him get the job done.

*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.



Teaching Tips:

1. More on Timothy’s family: II Timothy 1:5. Timothy was most important to Paul, demonstrated in the fact that he wrote two personal letters to Timothy. See also II Timothy 4:9-15, Paul’s request of Timothy in his last days. Timothy was mentioned as being with Paul in five of his letters: I & II Thessalonians, II Corinthians, Philippians, and Colossians. Timothy was imprisoned at some time, See Hebrews 13:23
2. Songs that emphasize God’s grace, sacrifice and service, joy in Christian living, and the joy of leading people to know Jesus as Savior are appropriate.
3. Pray with your students: Thank God for His Word and for Paul’s assurance to the church at Philippi that we can please God. Thank Him for people like Timothy who serve God with joy and set such a good example for us.
4. You might ask your class if they can name someone, other than yourself, who serves God and is a helper to others who serve God.

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Student Worksheet

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=Paul trusted Timothy to bring him _____ the news, which Paul expected to be good news about how well the Philippians were _____ and _____ God.

=Paul, knowing that he had the qualities of a good _____, could say with confidence that _____ really cared for the people at Philippi.

=Timothy put Jesus _____. That meant that he was busy making sure that God’s work was done and that people were told about the _____ of Jesus.

=What can today’s Christians learn from _____? Christians ought always to speak the _____ in love. People should see _____ in us. Christians ought to be the most _____ people on earth, involved in the _____ of those around us; _____ them to be all that they can be. We should certainly put _____ first, and _____ second. Christians personally, then, come in _____ in that kind of counting. Christians ought to always be _____ players. First, we should be on God’s _____, but also on the Christian _____ team, helping tell the Good News to _____ who will _____ to us.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer, and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.