



## INTRODUCTION

A parent is excited when it's discovered that their children have been obedient to their rules during tough situations even when the parents were not around. Parents are delighted when their children take a stand without compromise in the face of current social or worldly standards that don't line up with the word of God. These successes give parents relief more than pride knowing that they had something to do with the righteous actions and reactions of their children. The parents also realize that their children performed physically the things that the parents taught and the parents did not do anything themselves and gives God the glory and the children the credit for their own performance. The same could be said for any senior/junior relationship from supervisor and employee to pastor and congregation.

### **Philippians 2:17-23 (NKJV)**

- 17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.  
18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.  
19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.  
20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.  
21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.  
22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.  
23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

**17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.**

**18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.**

Paul had warned the Philippian church in our previous lesson not to complain. If anyone had a right to complain it would be him. He wrote the Corinthian church about all of the things that had happened to him since his crusade for Christ began and we can review those things in **2 Cor. 23-29**. Now Paul is saying in the 19<sup>th</sup> verse that he is willing to die for the cause for Christ and rejoice with **all** of them. Knowing where Paul stands, the Philippian church should be willing to rejoice with Paul as well.

**19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.**

**20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely (*naturally*) care for your state.**

**21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.**

The things Paul says about his spiritual son Timothy would look good on a resume. If there was one person Paul could trust to have the same feelings about the Philippian church, it was Timothy.



As young as Timothy was, God was able to use him in various ways in the church. This lets us know that no matter what our age, if we have the desire to serve, God will equip us to serve. God will give us the courage and strength to serve despite our surroundings, situation, health and our financial or social status.

**Luke 8:14 (NKJV)** is a small excerpt from the parable of the “seed” or the word of God.

<sup>14</sup> Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

And in **Luke 9:59-62 (NKJV)**

<sup>59</sup> Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

<sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

<sup>61</sup> And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house."

<sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

**22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.**

**23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.**

In order to be entrusted with authority in critical situations, we first have to prove we're reliable with the small mundane things in life. As an example, my father wouldn't let me drive his car until he was sure I would keep an eye on the oil and coolant levels and do something about it if either of these levels were low. I was also tasked with keeping the tire pressures correct and the exterior and interior clean enough for company. The real responsibility of driving the vehicle came much later and I had proven to him I was reliable.

Spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ certainly has a lot more responsibility to it than driving a car. However, if I can't be trusted with the use and maintenance of a car, how could my father trust me with a message of eternal life and death?

The Philippian church knew Paul was in prison and would soon know his fate in the Roman court. If Paul was acquitted, he would go to them, but if not, Paul would use Timothy. Either way, the Philippian church would be in good hands.