

Epaphroditus – Cory Collins – 2022 02 08 Preachers' Lunch

Most unusual, valuable, strange, or memorable piece of mail.

When you opened Philippians, you opened a gift that came from the Holy Spirit, that was written by Paul, and that was delivered by Epap.

Epap was always giving something to someone. He brought the Philippians' gift to Paul in prison in Rome, and he brought Paul's letter with him back to the Philippian church.

"Aphrodite." charming, comely, lovely, fascinating

Not on the top-ten list of heroes in Scripture. Probably never preached to thousands, hundreds, or even scores of people. Not famous throughout the brotherhood.

What did he look like? His age? Background? Family? Wealth? Education? Size of his house? We don't know! Yet ...

800 mi. 350 to coast. 80-mi Adriatic Sea. 350 Appian Way. Trip would take from 6 weeks up to 3 months each way.

Php 2:25 Ἀναγκαῖον δὲ ἡγησάμην Ἐπαφρόδιτον τὸν ἀδελφὸν καὶ συνεργὸν καὶ συστρατιώτην μου, ὑμῶν δὲ ἀπόστολον καὶ λειτουργὸν τῆς χρείας μου, πέμψαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς, **26** ἐπειδὴ ἐπιποθῶν ἦν πάντας ὑμᾶς καὶ ἀδημονῶν, διότι ἠκούσατε ὅτι ἡσθένησεν. **27** καὶ γὰρ ἡσθένησεν παραπλήσιον θανάτῳ· ἀλλὰ ὁ θεὸς ἠλέησεν αὐτόν, οὐκ αὐτόν δὲ μόνον ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐμέ, ἵνα μὴ λύπην ἐπὶ λύπην σχῶ. **28** σπουδαιοτέρως οὖν ἔπεμψα αὐτόν, ἵνα ἰδόντες αὐτόν πάλιν χαρῆτε καὶ γὰρ ἀλυπότερος ὢ. **29** προσδέχεσθε οὖν αὐτόν ἐν κυρίῳ μετὰ πάσης χαρᾶς καὶ τοὺς τοιούτους ἐντίμους ἔχετε, **30** ὅτι διὰ τὸ ἔργον Χριστοῦ μέχρι θανάτου ἠγγίσεν παραβολευσάμενος τῇ ψυχῇ, ἵνα ἀναπληρώσῃ τὸ ὑμῶν ὑστέρημα τῆς πρὸς με λειτουργίας.

Php 2:25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my **brother** and **fellow worker** and **fellow soldier**, who is also your **messenger** (*apostolos*) and **minister** (*leitourgios*) **to my need**; **26** because he was longing for you all (*homesick*) and **HE was distressed** because **you had heard (news traveled slowly!)** that he was sick (***He was worried that they would be worried about him!***). **27** 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 ***Paul's humanity, tenderness, loneliness, and grief***. **28** 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 (Best way to get the news of his recovery back to them – send HIM!)**. **29** Receive him then in the Lord with **all joy**, and hold men like him in **high regard**; **30** because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service (*leitourgia*) to me.

παραβολεύομαι, 'having gambled with his life', 'to throw down a stake, to make a venture'. **Dangerous journey.**

Php 4:10 Ἐχάρην δὲ ἐν κυρίῳ μεγάλως ὅτι ἤδη ποτὲ ἀνεθάλετε τὸ ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ φρονεῖν, ἐφ' ᾧ καὶ ἐφρονεῖτε, ἡκαιρεῖσθε δέ. **11** οὐχ ὅτι καθ' ὑστέρησιν λέγω, ἐγὼ γὰρ ἔμαθον ἐν οἷς εἰμι αὐτάρκης εἶναι. **12** οἶδα καὶ ταπεινοῦσθαι, οἶδα καὶ περισσεύειν· ἐν παντὶ καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν μεμύημαι, καὶ χορτάζεσθαι καὶ πεινᾶν καὶ περισσεύειν καὶ ὑστερεῖσθαι. **13** πάντα ἰσχύω ἐν τῷ ἐνδυναμοῦντί με. **14** πλὴν καλῶς ἐποιήσατε συγκοινωνήσαντές μου τῇ θλίψει. **15** Οἶδατε δὲ καὶ ὑμεῖς, Φιλιππησίοι, ὅτι ἐν ἀρχῇ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, ὅτε ἐξῆλθον ἀπὸ Μακεδονίας, οὐδεμία μοι ἐκκλησία ἐκοινώνησεν εἰς λόγον δόσεως καὶ λήμψεως εἰ μὴ ὑμεῖς μόνοι, **16** ὅτι καὶ ἐν Θεσσαλονίκη καὶ ἅπαξ καὶ δις εἰς τὴν χρεῖαν μοι ἐπέμψατε. **17** οὐχ ὅτι ἐπιζητῶ τὸ δόμα, ἀλλὰ ἐπιζητῶ τὸν καρπὸν τὸν πλεονάζοντα εἰς λόγον ὑμῶν. **18** ἀπέχω δὲ πάντα καὶ περισσεύω· πεπλήρωμαι δεξάμενος παρὰ Ἐπαφροδίτου τὰ παρ' ὑμῶν, **ὁσμὴν εὐωδίας, θυσίαν δεκτὴν, εὐάρεστον τῷ θεῷ.** **19** ὁ δὲ θεός μου πληρώσει πᾶσαν χρεῖαν ὑμῶν κατὰ τὸ πλοῦτος αὐτοῦ ἐν δόξῃ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. **20** τῷ δὲ θεῷ καὶ πατρὶ ἡμῶν ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων, ἀμήν. **21** Ἀσπάσασθε πάντα ἅγιον ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς οἱ σὺν ἐμοὶ ἀδελφοί. **22** ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς πάντες οἱ ἅγιοι, μάλιστα δὲ οἱ ἐκ τῆς Καίσαρος οἰκίας. **23** ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν.

Php 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that **now at last** you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but **you lacked opportunity.** **11** Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. **12** I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. **13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. **14** Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. **15** You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; **16** for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. **17** Not that I seek the gift itself, but **I seek for the profit which increases to your account. (What we get when we give. Treasure in heaven.)** **18** But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having **received (term used for drawing up a receipt in a business transaction)** from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a **fragrant aroma (burnt offering), an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. (Christians as priests)** **19** And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **20** Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen. **21** Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. **22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. **23** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Christians are mailmen, couriers delivering the Word of God!