

THE GIFT (AND NEED) OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Philippians 2.19-30

TRAVELING ENCOURAGERS

It may seem odd to find a travel itinerary in the middle of Philippians, but there is much to glean from. Here, Paul describes two men, Timothy and Epaphroditus, and what he says about them gives us much to model.

Both are examples of ordinary men, not super stars, that are content with being ordinary, are team players, aren't self-absorbed, and are otherly-minded.

EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL ENCOURAGERS

Philippians 2.20-27

Paul describes Timothy saying there is "no one like him" and cites both their genuine concern for others. He speaks of Timothy's "proven worth" and loyalty as a son to a father. Both risk their own needs for the ministry. **How do we encourage the people in our own lives like this?**

Spouse: We so easily focus on the negative, things we want to change. We nag, complain, compare to other spouses, and have unrealistic expectations. This will never produce an environment or relationship that encourages growth.

Proverbs 27.15-17

Children: Parents, you can wear your children out by having such high expectations of them, focusing in on their faults, you will create people-pleasers and eventual adults who will be performance driven rather than grace driven.

Colossians 3.21

Other Believers: The Word tells us in **Hebrews 10.24, 25** that we should stir each other up by being together and encouraging one another. We need each other to fill the tank.

Friends, Co-Workers, Non-Believers: Paul tells us in **Colossians 4.5, 6** that we should walk in wisdom toward non-believers and have our speech always seasoned with salt. This is a picture of a person whose speech leaves someone encouraged, not condemned.

Affirm the positive evidences of God's grace you see in the lives of those God has put in your life. Be the person, like Timothy, that others say, "I have no one like him."

Train your eyes to see God's grace working others' lives; retrain your eyes to not automatically go to being critical and fault finding.

ENCOURAGE YOUR ENCOURAGERS

Paul also gives us instruction on how to treat those who are in our lives who encourage us. Remember, Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Receive from your encouragers, but give back. "Receive [them] in the Lord with all joy, and honor [them]."



NOTES:

Upcoming Sermons:

Philippians 3.1-11: The next two weeks we will be looking at this portion of Scripture. We'll get a very vivid picture of the nature of the Gospel and what it means to trust in Christ's righteousness alone, not our good works or spiritual and moral accomplishments. We'll expose legalism and our propping up of our spiritual accomplishments.

This Week's Scripture to Memorize:

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at katie@lifemission.tv

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at casey@lifemission.tv.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, is there anyone who can recite the week's memory verse?

Read **Philippians 2:19-30**. What did God show you through His Word and through the Sermon on Sunday? _____

Take a look at **Hebrews 3:13** What does the author say about the dangers of not encouraging one another, and how often are we to exhort one another? _____

Consider the relationships listed below; do you easily fall into the natural norm of focusing on areas of needed change, faults, or behavior and character flaws? What would they say regular interaction is like with you? Are they encouraged, feel like they can't live up to your expectations, do they get inspired and filled up, do they feel loved and supported, do they feel like they always let you down? Write down some specific examples of your self-assessment:

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Christian Friends: _____

Co-Workers, Classmates, Teammates: _____

Non-believing Family and Friends: _____

One reason we might not encourage others is because they either don't encourage us, they always discourage us, or they just make it hard to find positive things to focus on. On Sunday, Pastor Jobey reminded us to consider Christ. When we withhold encouragement from others due to our disappointment, how does that compare to Christ's patience, acceptance, and long suffering with us, even though we are constantly failing and struggling through sin? How can truly and more deeply believing the Gospel for yourself change the way you encourage others in your life? _____

Finally, look at **Romans 15:4-7**. Now spend time discussing some practical ways that each of you can build up and strengthen your brothers and sisters in Christ. Then pray that our hearts would be encouraged by the Gospel that we may speak life into those that God has placed in our lives. _____



Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.



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Philippians 2.19-30 // August 28, 2016

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025