

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY WE'LL LOOK AT THE NEXT ¶ OF PHIL., ~ 2:19-24.

▶▶Paul discusses plan . . . .

IN VERSE 19a, ~ PAUL STATES HIS INTENTION TO SEND TIMOTHY. ~ 19a . . . .

"IN THE LORD JESUS" MAY BE RENDERED "IF THE LORD JESUS WILLS." ~ OR "IF IT is the Lord's will."

▶▶Observe, ~ Paul made plans, ~ but left room for & submitted himself to the will of God.

▶▶We see that Paul practiced what James preached. ~ James 4:13-15 . . . .

▷▷Planning is not wrong. ~ Not trying to banish planning from lives.

↪↪The problem that James addresses is when God is not included in our planning.

→→I.e., ~ when we don't consult the Lord through prayer and his word. ~ And we don't leave room for and submit to God's will.

↪↪This is where our planning goes off rails.

▷▷We don't know what tomorrow will bring, ~ let alone a year from now. ~ Life is short and we don't know when we will die.

↪↪So leaving Jesus out of our planning is utter foolishness.

▷▷Go ahead and make plans, ~ James says, ~ but seek and make the Lord's will the primary and deciding factor in our planning.

▷▷Furthermore, ~ we should always have the attitude of Jesus, ~ as he prayed in Gethsemane, ~ yet not my will, but yours be done."

▷▷Also, ~ based upon what James says about our lives . . . , ~ in our planning we should always keep in mind what Moses' prayed for.

↪↪He asked the Lord to teach us to realize the brevity of life, ~ so that we may grow in wisdom. ↯↯ 1/6

## IN VERSE 19b, ~ PAUL TELLS THEM HIS PURPOSE FOR SENDING TIMOTHY . . . .

PAUL WAS SENDING TIMOTHY SO THAT HE, ~ PAUL, ~ WOULD BE CHEERED BY learning news about the believers in Philippi.

▶▶ But there's an implied second purpose as well.

▷▷ The word translated "I too" indicates that the believers in Philippi would be encouraged by the arrival of Timothy with his news about Paul.

▶▶ So Timothy was not sent just to get a report on the Philippian believers, ~ he would share with them what was going on with Paul as well.

▷▷ Timothy would report on Paul to the believers, ~ he would then return to Paul and report on the believers in Philippi, ~ and everyone would be mutually encouraged.

▷▷ This isn't the only time Paul focused on mutual encouragement. ~ ~ Rom. 1:11-12 . . . .

WE CAN MAKE TWO OBSERVATIONS HERE WHEN WE CONSIDER PAUL'S PLAN TO send Timothy to Philippi and Paul's purposes for doing so.

▶▶ 1<sup>st</sup>, ~ speaking of mutual encouragement, ~ mutual encouragement is extremely important.

▷▷ Over and over in the NT we are told to encourage one another.

▷▷ My . . . ~ this side of heaven we will never stop needing encouragement or building up.

↪↪ So we need to be actively and continually engaged in encouraging one another.

▷▷ Recall in Ephesians that Paul told us to not let any destructive speech come out of our mouths.

↪↪ Instead, ~ we are to let everything we say be good and helpful, ~ so that our words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

▷▷ The conversation of the followers of Christ should be wholesome and beneficial so that it encourages our fellow believers, ~ that builds up rather than tears down.

▷▷ When we speak to our fellow believers, ~ we should always strive to use words that build their confidence, ~ that encourage them in their tasks, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ that promote their spiritual growth, ~ and that foster goodwill in our local fellowship. ¶¶ 2/6

▷▷ We should never underestimate the power of words to encourage our brothers and sisters in their spiritual growth and in the battles of life.

↳↳ Words of encouragement can make an enormously positive difference in people's lives.

→→ Barnabas and John Mark . . . .

▶▶ And the 2<sup>nd</sup> observation that we can note here when we consider Paul's plan to send Timothy to Philippi and Paul's purposes for doing so is this.

▷▷ Paul didn't just lead people to Christ, ~ plant a church in their area, ~ and then leave them on their own.

↳↳ He wasn't interested in just racking up numbers of church plants & converts.

↳↳ And even though he could not be with the church in Philippi physically, ~ he wanted to send Timothy to check up on how they were doing.

▷▷ The great commission makes it quite clear that we are not to just make converts.

↳↳ [Matt. 28:18-20](#) . . . .

↳↳ The verb "make disciples" commands a kind of evangelism that does not stop after someone makes a profession of faith.

↳↳ We must never think that after we've led someone to Christ our job is over.

↳↳ It is crucial to understand that the command is not to evangelize but to perform the broader and deeper task of "discipling" people.

→→ This involves inviting people to enter a relationship with Jesus, ~ baptizing them, ~ anchoring them in the faith, ~ and helping them grow in the faith.

→→ Now, ~ obviously, ~ there are certain situations in which it will not be possible to personally disciple a new convert.

↳↳ E.g., ~ airplane . . . .

IN VERSES 20-22, ~ PAUL TELLS THEM WHY HE'S SENDING TIMOTHY AND NOT someone else. ~ Verses 20-22 . . . .

NOW, ~ IT'S VERY HARD TO KNOW WHO THE "THEY" IN VERSE 21 ARE. 📖 3/6

▶▶ And that's ok. ~~ Because the emphasis is on Timothy here and not on "they," ~ and also not knowing the "they" has absolutely no bearing on doctrinal matters or Paul's main point.

▷▷ Main, ~ suggest: ~~ Timothy's genuine concern for the well-being of these believers made him the right person for the task.

### WE CAN OBSERVE HERE THAT TIMOTHY STANDS AS A MODEL FOR US.

▶▶ Each of us should have a genuine concern for the well-being of our fellow believers.

▶▶ We are not to be like those whom Paul refers to here as seeking only their own interests.

### THIS POINTS US BACK TO 2:4 . . . .

▶▶ As we noted there, ~ and it's probably always good to review, ~ it's important to understand that it's not that believers are to not look out for our own needs and concerns.

▷▷ Paul says "look not only" to our own needs. ~~ "only" is a key word here.

▶▶ But we are not to make our needs and concerns a priority to the exclusion of our fellow believers' needs and concerns.

▷▷ Perhaps always a temptation for us.

▶▶ Our sphere of concern should be broader than ourselves, ~ and should include the needs and concerns of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

▷▷ And we see that Timothy had this broader concern.

▶▶ Timothy serves as a real-life example of carrying out this exhortation.

▷▷ Having a genuine concern for the well-being of our fellow believers, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and looking out not only for our own interests but also for the interests of our brothers and sisters in Christ, ~ is not something unattainable for us.

### IN VERSE 23, ~ PAUL TELLS THEM WHEN HE'S SENDING TIMOTHY . . . .

OBSERVE THAT IT SEEMS THAT PAUL WANTED AND NEEDED TIMOTHY'S companionship until the outcome of Paul's situation.

▶▶ I think Paul waiting to send Timothy until the outcome of the trial shows us that when we go through trials and difficult times we need other believers to stand with us . . . . ¶¶ 4/6

▶▶ In Gal. 6:2, ~ Paul writes, ~ "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

▷▷ The word for "burden" means literally "a heavy weight or stone" someone is required to carry for a long distance.

↪↪ Figuratively it came to mean any oppressive ordeal or hardship that was difficult to bear.

▷▷ Burdens come in all sizes and shapes. ~ And no believer is exempt from them.

↪↪ So we need to help each other carry the heavy weights in our lives that we need to carry for a long distance.

IN VERSE 24, ~ PAUL FINISHES HIS DISCUSSION ABOUT HIS PLAN TO SEND Timothy. ~ Verse 24 . . . .

"IN THE LORD" MAY BE RENDERED "IF THE LORD WILLS."

▶▶ Very likely, ~ Paul is saying, ~ "I trust that, ~ if it is the Lord's will, ~ I myself will be able to come to you soon." ~ Again, ~ left room for & submitted himself to the will of God.

OBSERVE THAT IT'S NOT "IF IT IS ROME'S WILL," ~ OR "IF IT IS NERO'S WILL."

▶▶ The outcome of his trial, ~ Paul clearly declares, ~ is in God's hands.

▶▶ We are reminded here that our God is sovereign over everyone ~ and all of history ~ and all of life. ~ Absolutely nothing and no one is out of Jesus' control.

▶▶ We've talked about this before, ~ and it definitely bears repeating in light of what's happening in this world. ~ Satan & this world. ~ Terrorism. ~ Hostility.

▷▷ So we need to cement it into our hearts and minds & constantly draw encouragement from the absolute truth that our Savior and Lord is sovereign & working out his plan.

▷▷ When we view what's happening in the world today, ~ know this: ~ 77

↪↪ things are not spinning out of control, ~ evil and chaos will not be triumphant, ~ and God is still on his throne and will bring His plan for the ages to completion.

▶▶ Heb. 1:3b tells us that Jesus "upholds the universe by the word of his power."

▷▷ Meaning of upholds involves both maintaining ~ & movement toward some goal. 77 5/6

▷▷ What we are saying is that Jesus sustains the universe in its existence and operation, ~ and is carrying it forward, ~ or guiding it, ~ to its divinely appointed end.

▷▷ As we view what's happening in this world, ~ let us always keep in mind that our Lord and Savior sustains the universe in its existence and operation, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and is guiding it to its divinely appointed end.

▷▷ As we just said recently, ~ nothing and no one is outside of his sovereign control.

↳↳ No plunging stock market, ~ terrorist attack, ~ troubled Middle East, ~ or presidential election ~ threatens His control or hinders it in the least.

▷▷ Jesus is still in control. ~ And He is still moving everything forward to its divinely appointed end.

↳↳ All hostile nations & people on earth combined cannot overthrow or prevent . . . .

▷▷ This means that in spite of what the spiritual forces of evil and this evil world do, ~ we can take comfort, ~ and find strength, ~ in knowing that Jesus is in control, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and that He will bring about the day when, ~ as John says in Rev., ~ "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, ~ and he shall reign forever and ever." (Rev. 11:15)

→→ And there will be "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

▶▶ My . . . ~ Jesus, ~ who "upholds the universe by the word of his power," ~ Jesus, ~ who is Yahweh, ~ the sovereign Creator of the universe, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is absolutely sovereign over everyone ~ and all of history ~ and all of life.

↳↳ Absolutely nothing and absolutely no one is out of His control.

→→ And thanks to him, ~ a glorious, ~ awesome future awaits his people.

## CONCLUSION.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU.

▶▶ But I think that's a great note to end on.

LET'S PRAY . . . . 6/6