

A HELPFUL LIFE

Philippians 2:19-30

- **Most people don't understand their life purpose, but the Lord wants to help us all learn how to MAKE LIFE COUNT.**
- *"Leave your impoverished confusion and live! Walk up the street to a life with meaning."* (Proverbs 9:6)
- ***What kind of person does the Lord utilize to make a difference for good and for God in our world?***
- *"Remember that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise.* (1 Corinthians 1:27)
- **The Lord works through people who are committed to working on their salvation, shining brightly in a dark world, and holding firmly to Jesus (Philippians 2:12-18).**
- **The Lord also works through people who are focused on helping others to accomplish His extraordinary works (Philippians 2:19-30).**
- ***What qualities does the Lord particularly utilize when He works through His people to encourage and help others?***

The Lord Works Through:

CARING PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK

- Paul - *"I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. . . . I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare."* (Philippians 2:19-20)
- **Timothy was one of Paul's primary mentees (Acts 16:1-4, 1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy).**
- *"Timothy . . . genuinely cares about your welfare. All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ."* (Philippians 2:20-21)

- ***Why do so many people in our day seemingly have little or no concern or compassion for others, particularly hurting people?***
- *"I looked for someone to come help me, but no one gives me a passing thought! No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me."* (Psalm 142:4)
- **Christians have been called to care about and attend to the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of others.**
- Jesus - *"The King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me into your home. I was naked, and you gave Me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for Me. I was in prison, and you visited Me.'"* (Matthew 25:34-36)
- ***Who are some hurting people I need to be encouraging and/or helping?***

The Lord Works Through:

<u>COURAGEOUS</u> PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK

- *"You know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in <u>preaching the Good News</u>."* (Philippians 2:22)
- **There was a time when it appears that Timothy was fearful of being a bold witness and preacher for the Lord; and when he also struggled with a sense of failure and with frail health as well.**
- *"God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So <u>never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord</u>. . . . With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer with me for the sake of the Good News."* (2 Timothy 1:7-8)
- **We need to care enough about people and be courageous enough to tell them how they can experience the Lord's forgiveness, freedom, fulfillment, and the future of Heaven in their lives.**
- *"You Gentiles used to be outsiders. . . . In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ."* (Ephesians 2:11-13)
- **We show that we care about people's "spiritual welfare" when we pray for their salvation, share our faith and/or testimony with them, and invite them to *Life Groups* or worship services, etc.**
- ***Who are some people I need to be praying for and witnessing to?***

The Lord Works Through:

COMMITTED PEOPLE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK

- *"Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. "* (Philippians 2:25)
- **Committed Christians are people who are willing to be *Servants of Others*.**
    - *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."* (1 Peter 4:10)
    - **Real servants are available to help others with their needs.**
    - *"Two blind men shouted, 'Lord, have mercy on us!' . . . When Jesus heard them He stopped and, 'What do you want Me to do for you?'"* (Matthew 20:30-32)
    - **Real servants are faithful in serving God by serving others.**
    - *"The one thing required of servants is that they be faithful."* (1 Corinthians 4:2)
- **Committed Christians are willing to be *Soldiers for the Lord*.**
    - *"Welcome him (Epaphroditus) in the Lord's love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away."* (Philippians 2:29-30)
    - **Christian "warriors" push past their fears.**
    - *"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)
    - **Christian "warriors" push past their fatigue.**
    - *"But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."* (Isaiah 40:31)
- *"Welcome him (Epaphroditus) in the Lord's love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve."* (Philippians 2:29)
- **We need to honor those who have fearlessly and faithfully served the Lord by serving others (Matthew 25:21).**

- **Timothy, Epaphroditus, and Paul were mightily utilized by the Lord because they were "sold out the whole route" to Him.**
- Paul - *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20)
- ***What is it going to take for me to be utilized by the Lord in the days ahead?***