



Pastor Jeff's Daily Devotion

Day 29

February 8, 2010

Day Twenty-Nine

Philippians 2:25-30

²⁵But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, ³⁰because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

We have some inside information here between Paul and the Philippians. Epaphroditus was a fellow laborer in the gospel. God never intended us to do His work alone. This is one of the great reasons for the church. A place to band together with other believers to carry out the task that God has given all of us. The task is what's called the "great commission" found in Matthew 28:18-20.

That is what Paul and Epaphroditus were doing. Epaphroditus had been gravely ill, but God's mercy had spared him. You never know what God's will is when it comes to sickness and accidents. Those are all great mysteries that we will never totally understand but Paul here is grateful because he did not think he could have handled "sorrow upon sorrow".

Paul instructs the Philippians to honor men like Epaphroditus, who care more for God's will, word and work than they do for their own lives.

Lord, Your ways, will and word are what I want. Help me to die to myself, so I can live for you.