

Light Bearers

¹⁶ ...**holding fast** the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not **run** in vain or **labored** in vain.

¹⁷ Yes, and if I am **being poured out as a drink offering** on the **sacrifice** and **service** of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy Commended

¹⁹ But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰ For I have no one **like-minded**, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹ For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ²² But you know his proven **character**, that **as a son** with *his* father he **served** with me in the gospel. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. ²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.

Epaphroditus Praised

²⁵ Yet I considered it necessary to send to you **Epaphroditus**, my brother, **fellow worker**, and **fellow soldier**, but **your messenger** and the one who ministered to my need; ²⁶ since he was **longing** for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was **sick almost unto death**; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I sent him the

more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; ³⁰ because for the work of Christ he came close to death, **not regarding his life**, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

Notes

- 1.) Stay focused on the _____ , keep the _____ , and never violate unity over _____ .
- 2.) In essence, Paul says "Keep the _____ the main thing, and don't sweat the _____ ."
- 3.) We shine our lights through proclaiming the _____ & maintaining _____...things that Paul _____ them for— and _____ them with.
- 4.) The Tree of Life _____ as an eternal heavenly _____ . Isn't it worth the effort?
- 5.) Christian, when you pack to pursue your _____ , what should you _____ ?
- 6.) Paul is saying, _____ the complaining, disputing, & divisiveness and _____ that would distract you from serving our Lord and the Gospel.
- 7.) It's gonna be _____ worth it. — , _____ , can do it. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. —Phil. 4.13
- 8.) Paul considered Epaphroditus to be a brother, _____ , & _____ in the gospel.
- 9.) Clearly, Paul considers the qualities of _____ , faithful oversight, and _____ within the main mission to be critical.