

Philippians 2:19-30

**Encouraged by
God Working in
Us**



Introduction

- Timothy & Epaphroditus— 2 significant co-workers of Paul
- Two case studies of what it means for God to work in the lives of others
- The small but important things, God uses to work in us and encourage us!
- Let's investigate these 2 young adults & see what we can learn about God working in/through us.



Main Points today

- **God works in & thru our relationships**
- **Metaphors for those relationships**
- **God honors our longings**
- **God has mercy on us**
- **God honors our honoring others**



God works in & thru our relationships

- 2:21 when God does not!
- Genuine care for your welfare
- As a son with his father...mentoring, guiding, fathering, encouraging
- Trusting others with a mission
- Work of the gospel—cheered with good news when I hear about you
- Good news about the good-news-ers!



Metaphors for those relationships

- **Brother (familial) 1:14—most of the brothers**
- **Co-worker (task) 4:3; Paul names them—17!**

Prisca & Aquila (Romans 16:3)

Timothy, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, & Tertius (Romans 16:21, 22) Titus (2 Corinthians 8:23) Timothy (1 Thess. 3:2) Urbanus (Romans 16:9) Demas & Luke (Philemon, v. 24) Aristarchus, Barnabas' cousin Mark, Justus, Epaphras (Col. 4:10-12) Apollos (1 Corinthians 3:9)



Metaphors for those relationships

- **Fellow-soldier (battle)**
Archippus (Philemon, v. 2)
- **Messenger (message entrusted with & serves)**
ἀπόστολον and λειτουργὸν—
Erastus!

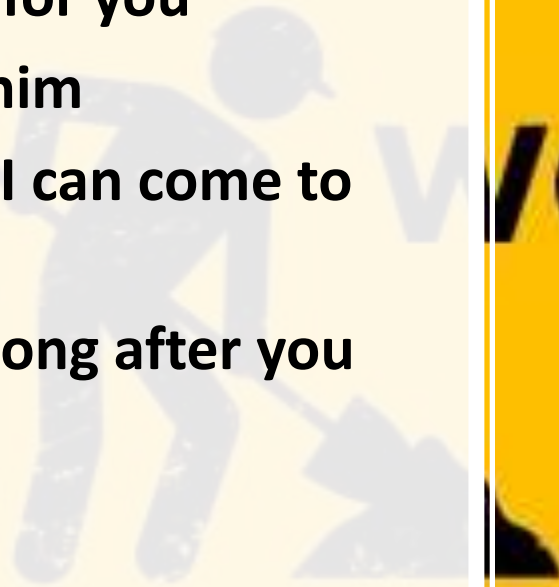
Each metaphor carries significant insights into God working in/through us!



GOOD
WORK

God Honors Our Longings

- Epaphroditus longs for you
- I am eager to send him
- I am confident that I can come to see you
- **1:8**—How greatly I long after you



God Honors Our Longings

- **1 Peter 2:2**—kind of longing that babies have for pure milk.
- **Romans 1:11**—I long to see you
- **2 Timothy 1:4**—I long to see you
- **1 Thess. 3:6-7**—Timothy again

Note: Paul purposefully tied his longing with the work of God in their life!



WORK

God has mercy on us

- Epaphroditus was ill...almost to the point of death
- They were distressed
- “God had mercy on him...” recognition of God’s place in healing
- Sorrow upon sorrow...Paul also felt the mercy
- Deep gratitude for health and healing to God
- Foundation for praise and thanksgiving!

WORK

God has mercy on us

- Sorrow upon sorrow...Paul also felt the mercy of God
- Deep gratitude for health and healing to God
- Foundation for praise and thanksgiving!



God honors our honoring others

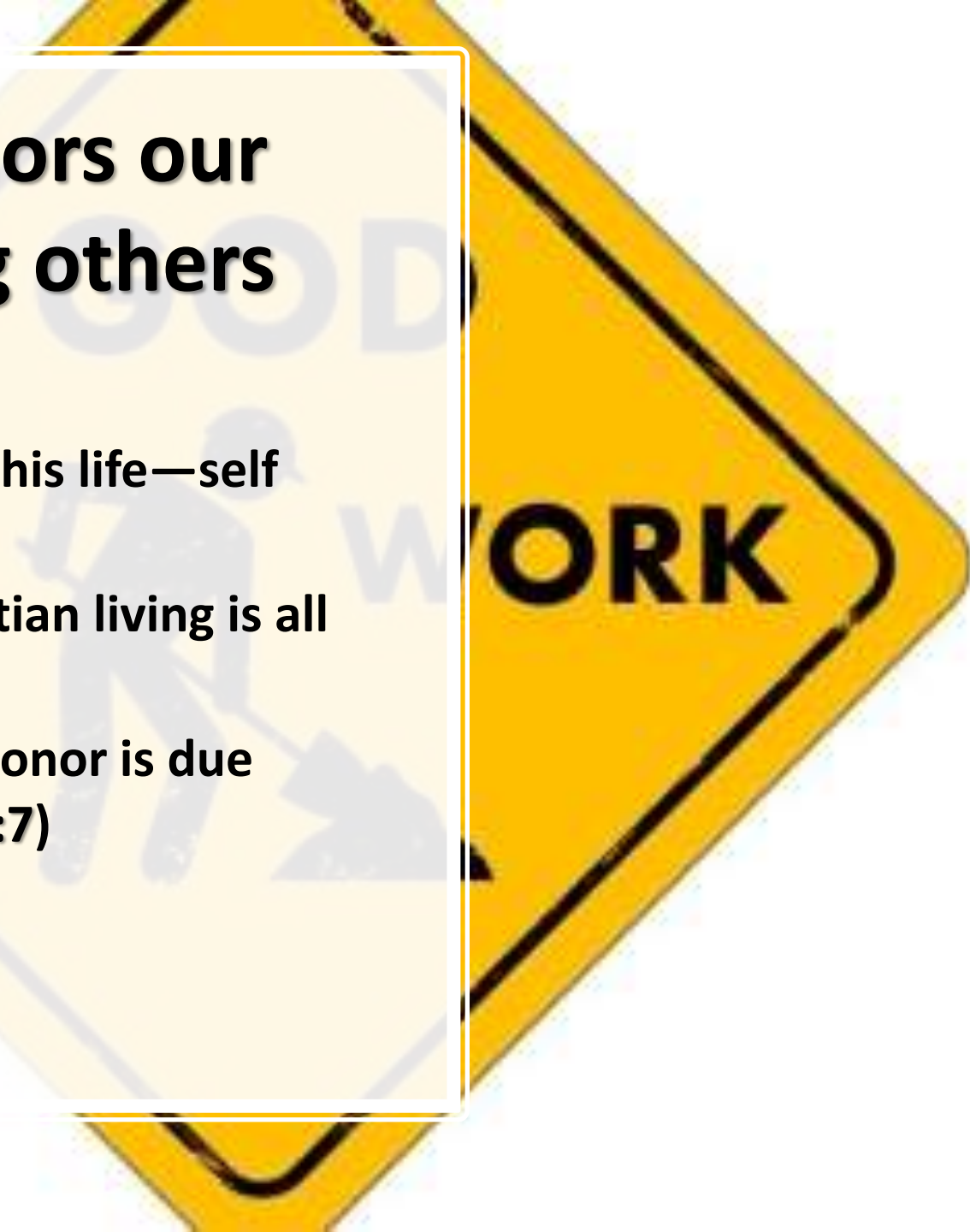
- **Welcome him with great joy**
- **I may have less anxiety—burden of the churches**
- **Honor people like him**
- **He risked his life and almost died for the work of God and support of the gospel**



WORK

God honors our honoring others

- He “disregarded” his life—self sacrifice
- This is what Christian living is all about!
- Honor to whom honor is due (Rom.12:10 & 13:7)



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WORK