Epaphroditus
Philippians 2:25-30

Into the Lesson:

From past sermons and Bible Margin notes review the "resume" of:

Paul-II Corinthians 11:16-33. (For extra credit you could read from Acts 9 through the book of Philemon for his complete resume.)

Timothy-Acts 16:1; Acts 17:14-15; Romans 16:21; I Corinthians 4:17; II Corinthians 1:1; I Timothy 1:3&18; Hebrews 13:23.

Epaphroditus-Philippians 2:25-30.

With 28 verses listed regarding Timothy and only the passage in Philippians regarding Epaphroditus, do you get the sense that Lane is willing to let Sam do the "heavy lifting"?

Into the Word:

From Sam's sermon, list the five key elements of this fellow servant as found in v. 25.

We're not afforded much background on Epaphroditus but as we work backwards from vv. 25-30 what can we surmise about his character and service to the church in Philippi?

From what we read in v. 26, what can we surmise about this person's character?

Referring to the marked sections of this passage, from last week, (shame on you if you didn't mark them) what attributes of Epaphroditus (aka. Phro) were a result of the influence of:

Family-
Church members and leaders-
Close fellowship with others-
The Holy Spirit-

Respond to Sam's statement from vv.29-30, "…obedience should not bring shame, but honor and glory".
What influences could cause some to think of Epaphroditus' return as a failure?

Into Life:

At the risk of being overly cynical, what are there some indications that our culture is looking for the church and "all things Jesus" to fail?

How can the Philippian Christians and Epaphroditus provide us with the examples to overcome this mentality?
In his sermon, Sam listed three "takeaways". How will these translate in our 21st century church experience?

There are no tiers to ministry (v.25)-
Sorrow and Joy are intermingled (vv.26-28)-
It is worth it to gamble on Jesus (vv.29-30)-

How can Matthew 28:18-20 and Romans 12:1-2 provide us with a framework to continue building on the work at Valley Christian Church?

What is already in the DNA of this body of believers that will enable us to face the challenges we **will** encounter as Believers?

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? Matthew 16:24-26