

## Philippians 2:12-30

### Live blameless lives in a godless world; words about Timothy and Epaphroditus

*(The People's Bible, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, pages 53-64)*

#### Look

- Verse 12      *“But now much more in my absence”*—This was a wonderful compliment that Paul paid to the Philippians. It is one thing to serve the Lord when your spiritual father is watching you but quite another when he is far away in prison.
- Verse 25      *“I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus.”* Epaphroditus was a leader in the church at Philippi. The congregation had sent him bearing a gift to Paul. He was to serve Paul while he remained in chains for the gospel.

#### Discuss

1. Why does Paul tell the Philippians to work out their salvation with fear and trembling?
2. In what way do we Christians “shine like stars in the universe” (verse 15)?
3. How would the Philippians’ living as children of light be a blessing to Paul?
4. How did Timothy differ from many other associates who had been with Paul in Rome?
5. Why did Paul desire the Philippians to welcome Epaphroditus, even though his time in Rome had been cut short?

#### Apply

6. Why do those who serve in foreign mission fields deserve our respect, gratitude, prayers, encouragement, and support?

*Paul encouraged the Philippians to “shine like stars in the universe.” He would soon send Timothy and Epaphroditus to minister to them.*