

GULFSHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sermon by Ray Reynolds
The Unsung Heroes of the New Testament: Epaphroditus
FORGOTTEN SERVANTS OF GOD

Introduction :

1. Paul often spoke of the men that encouraged him and spoke of their servanthood (Luke, Timothy, Barnabas, and John Mark – we have studied).
2. But he also spoke about others that we have not studied, even though they were equally profitable to Paul's ministry.
3. They were genuine servants of God and their characteristics teach us some very valuable lessons.
4. Likewise, the gospels speak of some great men that may go unnoticed.
5. Please open your Bible and let's study about one of those unsung heroes
6. EPAPHRODITUS – Philippians 2:25-30, 4:18
7. While you're finding our text let me read an excerpt about him. . . .

Discussion :

I. Epaphroditus Was CONSTANT (v.25)

Epaphroditus was a faithful Christian.

First and foremost, Epaphroditus was a Christian man.

Christians are servants!

Epaphroditus was a faithful friend.

Paul could rely on him in any given situation

Others had deserted Paul, but Epaphroditus never deserted him.

Epaphroditus was a faithful brother.

Paul called him "*my brother*" but he was their brother in Philippi too.

Brethren should look out for one another.

Epaphroditus was a faithful worker.

Paul called him "*my fellow worker.*"

He was not afraid to do the work of God.

Epaphroditus was a faithful soldier.

Paul called him "*my fellow soldier.*"

He was not afraid to stand up for his beliefs as a Christian.

Epaphroditus was a faithful messenger.

Paul called him "*your messenger.*"

Paul knew that he would deliver his message to the Philippians.

Epaphroditus was a faithful minister

Paul said that he "*cares for my needs.*"

He was not worried about putting others before himself.

II. Epaphroditus Was COMPASSIONATE (vs.26-27)

Epaphroditus was compassionate because he was eager.

- He was eager because he longed to be with his brethren.

Epaphroditus was compassionate because he was distressed.

- He was distressed because he knew his brethren were worried.

Epaphroditus was compassionate because he was shown mercy.

- He was able to show mercy and compassion because of God.

Epaphroditus was compassionate because he was a minister.

- He had little concern for his own well-being, but cared for others.

III. Epaphroditus Was CARING (v.28)

Epaphroditus was willing to follow Christ.

- He is unquestionably one of the great leaders of the church.

Epaphroditus was willing to help Paul.

- He seems to have a love and appreciation for other Christians.

Epaphroditus was willing to serve his brethren.

- His presence would bring them joy.

IV. Epaphroditus Was COMMITTED (vs.29-30)

Epaphroditus was committed because he dedicated his life to God.

- His entire life and ministry was a testimony of God work in his life.

Epaphroditus was committed because he regarded his life as nothing.

- Notice that he almost died for the cause of Christ.

Epaphroditus was committed because he realized the risks.

- He knew the risks and he was still willing to take them.

Epaphroditus was committed because he supplied needs.

- He always put his brethren before himself.

Conclusion :

1. We desperately need Christian servants today that are willing to work and serve, but not for praise, glory, or honor from men.
2. We need Christians that will practice these characteristics.
3. We need people that are humble.
4. We need to study more of the “unsung heroes” of the Bible.