

SERVANTS R US  
ALDERWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH  
December 27, 2009

**BIG IDEA: MY STARRING ROLE IS THAT OF A SERVANT**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Titles of books that you are not likely to see on area bookstore shelves:
1. Seven Habits of Highly Servile People
  2. No More Mr. Mean Guy
  3. Servanthood Secrets of Attila the Hun
  4. The One Minute Servant
  5. I'll See You at the Bottom
- B. We are conditioned to believe that everything has to be bigger and better. We climb **up** the ladder of success. Nobody would be so foolish as to climb **down**. Success is all about more money, higher promotions, greater power. Because success is so alluring, there is a traffic jam on of the ladder. People are trying to climb over other people and actually attempt to pry one another's fingers off the rungs.
- C. Once in a while a refreshingly different, counter-cultural book does come of the press. , For instance, fourteen years ago Chuck Swindoll released a book called Improving Your Serve. More recently, **Bill Hybels** has written Descending into Greatness. These authors know that they're writing something quite foreign to most people's way of thinking. Hybels begins his first chapter with these words: *"In the vocabulary of the world, 'down' is a word reserved for losers, cowards and the bear market. It is a word to be avoided or ignored, and certainly not discussed seriously, especially in polite society. It is a word that colors whatever it touches, even the otherwise proper company of words that it keeps: down and out, downfall, downscale, downhill, downhearted, and, worst of all, down under. A word, it seems, only on the unfortunate lips of the weak, the poor or the dead.*  
*"On the surface, one can understand the world's reservations. Descending into greatness seems absurd, a classical oxymoron....Even the best Manhattan advertising agencies would be hard pressed for a catchy jingle. Lose it all. Imagine the possibilities."*
- D. Philippians 2 challenges everything you have ever learned about success. We are all experts at what the world says is success. Now let's find out what God says is success, real success.

**BIG IDEA: MY STARRING ROLE IS THAT OF A SERVANT**

- I. THE EXHORTATION—Reading between the lines, this paragraph has **THREE QUESTIONS...**
- A. **QUESTION #1:** Is Jesus Working for Me? Verse 1. This is the "if" part of the "if-then" in **Verses 1-2**
- *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,*
  - *if any comfort from his love,*
  - *if any fellowship with the Spirit,*
  - *if any tenderness and compassion,*
- NOTE: Fee:** *In form this is a "conditional" sentence....The "conditional" nuance, however, disappears as the sentence evolves. The "if" clauses turn out not to express supposition, but presupposition, and should therefore be translated something closer to "since there is..."<sup>1</sup>*
- LCW Question:** Aren't you glad that you're a Christian?!
- NOTES:**
1. Some of your Christians here today might be **frustrated with your faith**, and your answer to the question is, *No, Jesus isn't working for me!* E.g., he hasn't answered your prayers the way you wanted, or you're burdened with depression that discolors everything...

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<sup>1</sup> Gordon D. Fee, *Paul's Letter to the Philippians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995), 177.

- **2 Peter 1:9** *But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins...*
    - **Verse 3, Given us thru divine power everything we need for life and godliness...**
    - **Verse 4, Given us his very great and precious promises...**
    - **Verses 5-7 Application:** *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.*
    - **So according to verse 9, if Jesus isn't working well for you, you need to get back to the wonder of your salvation...**
2. And some of you here today may **not at all be convinced** about the Christian faith. You're not even sure it's valid. You may have many questions. Let me simply encourage you to keep working thru those questions and don't just put them on the shelf. Glad you're here...
- B. **QUESTION #2:** Do I Owe Him Something? Verses 2-4. This is the "then" part of the "if-then" in **Verses 1-2**
1. As wonderful as verse 1 is, there is a hook in it. Paul is playing a little trick on us. He has gotten us in a trap. The bait is in **verse 1** and the trap is sprung in **verse 2**. **Verse 1** starts "*if*." **Verse 2** starts "*then*." There is a cause and there is an effect. There is a gift and there is an expectation. God invests something in our lives and He expects an appropriate response from us.
    - *then make my joy complete by being like-minded,*
    - *then having the same love,*
    - *then being one in spirit and purpose.*
    - *then do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but*
    - *then in humility consider others better than yourselves.*
    - *then each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*
  2. When God pours His love into our lives, He expects us to pour that love into the lives of others. **Verse 2** calls us to have "*the same love*." **Same as what?** Same as the love that God shows us in **verse 1**.
    - 1:27, *conduct worthy of the Gospel...*
    - 1:27, *"contending as one man for the faith of the gospel..."*
  3. You just can't get away with receiving the love of God and then trying to hoard it to yourself. To hoard it is to spoil it. You have to give it away. You have to be willing to take one for the team.
- C. **QUESTION #3:** Is My Brother Really Better than Me?
1. Verse 3, "Consider"—*No, he's not actually better...*
    - Actually my brother and I stand equal before God. As we say, *The ground is level at the foot of the cross.*
    - What the verse is telling me is to choose deliberately to *consider* my brother as better than myself, and to treat my brother as if he were better than me.
    - We all instinctively are experts at looking out for Number 1. God exhorts us to all become good at looking out for Number 2.
    - This proactive stance here is even a notch higher than what James calls the Royal Law : *Love your neighbor as yourself.*
      - **James 2:8**, *If you really keep the **royal law** found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.*
  2. Humility:
    - a. *Humility is a distinctively Christian virtue--Gordon Fee*  
In the world of Bible-time Greeks and Romans, humility was considered not a virtue but a moral defect. To them, humility was a weak and servile thing, like our term, "**Casper Milquetoast.**"
    - b. Biblical humility is not false modesty nor is it abject servility.

- 1) Compared to God, I am a **creature**, and therefore responsible to Him.
  - 2) Compared to God, I am a **sinner**, and therefore deserving of Hell.
  - 3) Compared to God, I am made in **His image**, and therefore greatly honored.
  - 4) Compared to others, I **differ** only by the gifting and the grace of God, and therefore I cannot boast (I Corinthians 4:7).
  - 5) Compared to my own **potential**, I fall short and therefore am an unprofitable servant (Luke 17:10).
3. Two great Scriptures to build biblical humility:

**FIRST: II Corinthians 10:12, 18:** *“We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise.” “For it is not the man who commends himself who is approved, but the man whom the Lord commends.”*

- No matter how low you are on the totem pole, you can always find somebody lower than you. But what does that prove? It doesn't mean you're good. It just means you found somebody less good than you. We need to get our eyes off each other and get them back on God. It doesn't matter how I compare to others, it only matters how I compare to God's expectations for me. That humbles me.
- I've had people tell me I was their favorite preacher. I've also had people tell me that they didn't get anything out of my preaching and that I wasn't biblical enough. Now what do you do with that? Here's what I do. I've learned to remember that ultimately it doesn't matter what you think of my preaching or what I think of my preaching. It ultimately doesn't even matter whether I keep preaching or not. It only matters that I do what God wants me to do and that I walk in His approval. That humbles me.

**SECOND: Romans 12:3:** *“Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”*

- Compared to God, we **are** worms. But this passage doesn't tell us to concentrate on thinking lowly of ourselves. It tells us to think of ourselves accurately. How do we see ourselves accurately? Through the eye of faith which sees God as the moving agency in our lives and us the clay pots which He fills with His treasure.
- That verse reveals that God has made each one of us a strategically valuable member of the body of believers. We each have a spiritual gift to contribute which helps our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- So accept what God made you to do. Enjoy your ministry. Rejoice in your fruitfulness. You're not a **“nothing.”** You are definitely a **“something”** by the design and empowering of God. But don't ever get a big head. Always keep a level head.
- And keep a sense of humor: *When a political opponent charged him with being two-faced during a campaign, Lincoln responded: “Really—if I had two faces, do you think I'd be wearing this one?”<sup>2</sup>*

\*\*\*So far in this passage we see that the Number One playground rule for Christians is to *consider also the interests of others (Verses 3-4)*

II. **THE PROTOTYPE:** Jesus. *Prototype: the original or model on which something is based or formed; pattern. VERSE 5, Your attitude should be **the same** as that of Christ Jesus:*

A. **No Compulsion. VERSE 6, Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped...**

1. If Jesus was compelled to do this, we would have to reimagine our theology.
  - **John 17:13** *“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have **the full measure of my joy** within them.*

<sup>2</sup> John Ortberg, *When the Game Is Over It All Goes Back in the Box* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007), 213.

2. Notice the non-compulsion of the appeal in **Romans 12:1**  
**Romans 12:1**, *Therefore, **Urge you**, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.*
- B. No Limits. VERSES 7-8**, *but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!*
1. How far is it from the Throne Room of God to the surface of the earth? It is immeasurable. It is infinite. It goes "off the chart."
    - QUESTION: *How much of a servant do I have to be?*
    - ANSWER: *All the way to the cross!*
  2. Just how far Jesus descended:
    - **Mark 10:45**, *... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*
    - Think of what it meant for Jesus to give up all that heavenly freedom. He moved from the penthouse to the basement. He went from heavenly limitlessness to the confines of a mother's womb. He who had never had to "go" anywhere because He **was** everywhere, now had to walk for days on dirty paths with donkey dung just to get from Galilee to Jerusalem.
    - For the first time in all of eternity past, God needed meals and He needed drinks and He needed sleep.
    - Equality: Jesus never gave up His deity, but He did give up the self-willed use of His deity. As God, He could have walked on water any time He wanted or made bread out of stones any time He was hungry. But as the God-man, as the Servant of Jehovah, He only did such things by the command and permission of His heavenly Father. He gave up the independent exercise of his divine attributes.
- C. No Regrets. VERSES 9-11**, *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
1. Peter's "given up" statement. Set up: Matthew 19's Rich Young Ruler who wants to follow Jesus. *Sell all you have, give it to the poor, and come follow me.* He goes away sad...  
**Matthew 19:27-29** *Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" <sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life*
  2. Jesus' exaltation and joy
    - **Hebrews 12:2**, *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who **for the joy** set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
  3. You Can Have It Your Way, Or...
    1. Many Christians are settling for too little out of life. They go to church and raise three nice kids who marry well, get good jobs and produce photogenic grandchildren. These Christians even do a little ministry in the church and put a little money in the plate. But the problem is that they keep their Christianity pretty antiseptic. They want things smooth and comfortable. They've got a routine and they don't permit it to be ruffled.
    2. In my more fleshly moments, I just want God to take my carefully crafted and well-manicured life and just plus it a little. I really don't want Him to mess with it, but just put a little bit of divine glow and blessing around it. But I can't have it that way. The Christian life can't be maintained that way. If I ask God to

basically leave my Christian life along, it will fall apart. The healthy Christian life must have healthy infusions of sacrifice and effort...

3. G. K. Chesterton wrote, "*Conservatism is based upon the idea that if you leave things alone you leave them as they are. But you do not. If you leave a thing alone you leave it to a torrent of changes. If you leave a white post alone it will soon be a black post. If you particularly want it to be white you must always be painting it again; that is, you must be always having a revolution. Briefly, if you want the old white post you must have a new white post.*"-- G. K. Chesterton
  - **Luke 9:23-24** Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.
  - I "paint the post" by serving Jesus, by denying my selfish instincts.

### III. THREE EXAMPLES

#### A. EXAMPLE #1: PAUL, Verses 12-18

1. Key Word: **EXTENDABILITY**

2. **Motto: More People; More Sacrifice**

**VERSES 12-18**, Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence-- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. <sup>14</sup> Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you **shine like stars** in the universe <sup>16</sup> as you hold out the word of life-- in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. <sup>17</sup> **But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.** <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

3. The Drink Offering. **VERSE 17**, *But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.*

*DRINK OFFERING, LIBATION...A libation normally accompanied burnt and peace offerings (Num 15:1-10)...The libation was considered as an additional "pleasing odor" offering (Num 15:7); like the burnt offering, all was expended, nothing was given to the priest; the entire libation was poured out in the sanctuary (28:7)...It never accompanied a sin or guilt offering alone.-- Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible.<sup>3</sup>*

- Old Testament texts: See footnote below.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Merrill C. Tenney, ed., *Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, Vol. 5* (Grand Rapids: The Zondervan Corporation, 1975), 207.

<sup>4</sup> **Numbers 15:1-10**, The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'After you enter the land I am giving you as a home <sup>3</sup> and you present to the LORD offerings made by fire, from the herd or the flock, as an aroma pleasing to the LORD-- whether burnt offerings or sacrifices, for special vows or freewill offerings or festival offerings-- <sup>4</sup> then the one who brings his offering shall present to the LORD a grain offering of a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a quarter of a hin of oil. <sup>5</sup> With each lamb for the burnt offering or the sacrifice, prepare a quarter of a hin of wine as a drink offering. <sup>6</sup> "'With a ram prepare a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a third of a hin of oil, <sup>7</sup> and a third of a hin of wine as a drink offering. Offer it as an aroma pleasing to the LORD. <sup>8</sup> "'When you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering or sacrifice, for a special vow or a fellowship offering to the LORD, <sup>9</sup> bring with the bull a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with half a hin of oil. <sup>10</sup> Also bring half a hin of wine as a drink offering. It will be an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. **Numbers 28:2-7** "Give this command to the Israelites and say to them: 'See that you present to me at the appointed time the food for my offerings made by fire, as an aroma pleasing to me.' <sup>3</sup> Say to them: 'This is the offering made by fire that you are to present to the LORD: two lambs a year old without defect, as a regular burnt offering each day. <sup>4</sup> Prepare one lamb in the morning and the other at twilight, <sup>5</sup> together with a

4. The shepherd sacrifices for the sheep. The more sheep I have, the more I will sacrifice.
  - Currently Paul is in prison for the faith. There he is being poured out.
5. What do servants complain and argue about?
  - When they get treated like servants.
  - “Wondering why her son hadn’t gotten up for church, Mrs. Smith went up to his bedroom and insisted that he get up. He said he wasn’t planning to go to church, to which she replied, ‘Bob, you’re thirty-eight years old! Now get out of bed and go to church!’
 

“I don’t like that church,’ he complained. ‘The people are demanding, critical, opinionated, fickle, hypocritical, and gossipy...you can’t give me one good reason to go.’

“Yes I can - you’re the pastor!” (Joseph Stowell, Shepherding the Church into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, p.64)
  - **VERSE 15**, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe
    - So how do we shine like stars? By extreme servanthood.
    - “In the second century, [Egyptian] church women provided nursing mothers who sat in the public squares, often under pagan statues, while other women went up and down the streets to collect the unwanted babies abandoned in the night. The brought them, nursed, bathed and raised them.”<sup>5</sup>
  - And **there in the middle of it all is the spiritual influencer**—equipping, celebrating, encouraging others; early and late, pouring himself or herself out. This is **EXTENDABILITY**—More people means More sacrifice.

B. **EXAMPLE #2: TIMOTHY**, Verses 19-24

1. Key Word: **EXCHANGABILITY**
2. **Motto: More Jesus; Less Me**  
**VERSES 19-24**, I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. <sup>20</sup> **I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.** <sup>21</sup> **For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.** <sup>22</sup> *But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.* <sup>23</sup> *I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.* <sup>24</sup> *And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.*
3. This translates into putting others’ interests ahead of my own, because Christ’s interests are all about others’ interests.
  - This one doesn’t grow on trees.
  - *I have no one like him.—Verse 20*
  - Ask me what the mission of my life is! Here’s the answer: “To look after the interests of Jesus Christ.” Wow! That’s like being commissioned as a keeper of the Holy Grail, only better! When we walk in the room, we hope people will say, “Well, there comes that Christ rep.” That’s right! That’s great! We want people to know that the reason for our being here is to carry out the Master’s business.
  - In Paul’s first missionary journey, he penetrated the interior of Asia Minor, spread the message of Christ and established churches in Lystra, Derbe and Iconium. Some time later, Paul planned a follow-up trip through th same cities to check on the health of these baby churches. In Lystra he discovered the young Timothy who was a stand-out disciple in the church at Lystra. The Bible says that everuyone in the

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grain offering of a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a quarter of a hin of oil from pressed olives. <sup>6</sup> This is the regular burnt offering instituted at Mount Sinai as a pleasing aroma, an offering made to the LORD by fire. <sup>7</sup> The accompanying drink offering is to be a quarter of a hin of fermented drink with each lamb. **Pour out the drink offering to the LORD at the sanctuary.**

<sup>5</sup> Ray Bakke, *A Theology as Big as the City* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997), 192.

church had the highest respect for this young adult believer. Timothy was already a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, but now he was to come under the mentoring ministry of the Apostle Paul. **Acts 16:3** says simply, “Paul wanted to take him along on the journey.”

- Timothy could have lived a very respectable Christian life in Lystra if he had never met Paul, but it was this mentoring relationship that would ramp Timothy’s growth rapidly as a missionary, a church planter, and evangelist, a church problems trouble-shooter, a trainer of Elders and more. He showed up with Paul in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth, Ephesus and Rome. He was dispatched by Paul to guide the churches at Thessalonica, Corinth, Philippi and Ephesus.
- But look at the heart of Timothy: “takes a genuine interest in your welfare.” This verse has one of those Bible words with a colorful background. The word “genuine” originally referred to a “legitimate” child and eventually came to mean anything genuine.
- You know what I like about Timothy? He’s life-sized. He didn’t build an ark like Noah. He didn’t kill wild animals and giants like David. He didn’t talk with God on top of Sinai. You and I can very easily relate to him. He had true grit, but in a pretty normal, ordinary way. William Barclay calls Timothy “the patron saint of all those who are quite content with the second place, so long as they can serve.”

4. Applications:

- The Mark of the Christian: *By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, that ye love one another.*
- **1 John 3:18** *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*
- **James 2:16** *If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?*
- Roman Emperor Julian wanted to breathe new life into the ancient pagan religion but saw more and more people drawn to Christianity. He wrote with frustration against these “atheists” (who did not believe in the Romans gods, but in Christ): “Atheism [i.e., Christian faith] has been specially advanced through the loving service rendered to strangers, and through their care for the burial of the dead.... It is a scandal there is not a single Jew who is a beggar, and that the godless Galileans care not only for their own poor but for ours as well; while those who belong to us look in vain for the help that we should render to them.—Stephen Neill<sup>6</sup>

C. **EXAMPLE #3: EPAPHRODITUS**, Verses 25-30

1. Key Word: **EXPENDABILITY**

2. **Motto: More Risk; Less Safety**

- Let me put it this way. Servants don’t fall under OSHA guidelines. Servants sometimes get asked to do some dangerous things.
- This hero achieved nowhere near the fame of a Moses, but maybe that’s just as well. He’s easier for us to identify with. His name is **Epaphroditus** and this is his story. **VERSES 25-30:** *But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. <sup>26</sup> For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. <sup>29</sup> Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, <sup>30</sup> because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.*
- That’s all anybody in the world knows about this man. He is mentioned nowhere else in the Bible or church history. He appears for 6 verses and is gone, but before

<sup>6</sup> John Piper, *Don’t Waste Your Life*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2003), 87. See end note.

he disappears, he blazes a trail of faith from Philippi to Rome and he leaves the legacy of a spiritual hero.

- **Epaphroditus** really did represent the church at Philippi. The reason he was in Rome was because the church back home loved Paul. They felt a responsibility to do something to help Paul. That concern got feet put on it in the person of Epaphroditus. That's why **verse 25** says he is "*your messenger*" and "*you [sent] him to take care of my needs.*" Again in **verse 30**, his ministry was "*to make up for the help you could not give me.*" The whole church wanted to do something for Paul. The whole church couldn't go to Paul. But the whole church could get behind one man who could.
- Most heroes get that label by risking something. **Epaphroditus** was no exception. Just traveling in those days was a risk. There were robbers on the roads and the ships were at the mercy of the weather. Besides, going to Rome to visit the jailed Paul was about as smart as honking your horn at a bunch of Hell's Angels on the highway.
- Despite the risks, he went to Rome and while he was there, he got sick. "*He almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.*" (**verse 30**).
- Look at the labels Paul used to describe this man: "*brother,*" "*fellow worker*" and "*fellow soldier.*" You couldn't be a fellow worker and soldier with Paul if you flinched from risk.

**CONCLUSION:**

*Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.—Phillips Brooks.*

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December 27, 2009