

1. Epaphroditus

1. His name means lovely, Handsome
2. He brought a gift of money to Paul from the Philippian church. 4:18

2. Pauls estimate of the character of Epaphroditus.

IN RELATION TO HIMSELF: Verse 24

1. "My brother" signifying the common sympathy that bound them together.
2. "My companion in labour"--noting the common work in which both were engaged.
3. "My fellowsoldier"--this would signify their common perils and sufferings in the service of the gospel of Christ.

IN RELATIONS TO THE PHILIPPIANS:

1. "Your messenger"--"He ministered to my wants." He did for them what they could not do for themselves.

3. The serious illness of Epaphroditus.

1. He was sick to the point of death.
2. God was the author of his recovery, "God had mercy on him."
3. Apostles and the early preachers could not always work miracles. Examples:
  - (1) Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever and Jesus healed her. Matt. 8:14,15; Mark 1:30,31
  - (2) Paul left Trophimus sick at Miletum. 2Tim.4:20

4. A PICTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIP

1. A common sympathy among Christians.
  - (1) Christianity does not destroy natural affections but gives strength and understanding to such affections.
2. A common work for all Christians.
  - (1) All do not preach, teach, serve tables, or work to induce others to become Christians.
3. A common warfare for all Christians.
  - (1) We must conquer men's hearts for Christ.
  - (2) We must conquer the world's evils: Carelessness, mammon-worship, intemperance, infidelity.
  - (3) If we do not conquer the world...the world is ~~sure~~ sure to conquer us.

