



THRIVING – Living with the attitude of Brother, Co-worker & Soldier

15th November 2020
Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

Today's Story:

A man complained to David Watson that the church was not looking after a man. He had driven him places, taken him to appointments, was counselling him, encouraged him, and he asked David, "Why can't the church do something for him?"

David thought for a moment, and then said to the man,

"I think the church is doing pretty well – You are the church."

1. Today - You are the church. Point at yourself and say out loud. "I am the church!"

Engage:

- Paul had several travelling companions that he worked with at various times. As we see Paul grow in his ministry, they all had different roles. In Acts and his letters, they are named:
Priscilla and Aquila, Luke, Timothy, Barnabas, Silas, John Mark, Titus, Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Tychicus, Trophimus, Jason, Onesimus, Epaphroditus.
2. What does the fact that Paul has several travel companions tell us?
 3. Read [Philippians 2:25-30](#)
 4. How did Epaphroditus fit into Paul's world?
 5. What makes a believer worthy of honour from others?
 6. What are the three things Paul calls Epaphroditus?
 7. Read [Proverbs 27:6](#)

Framework:

“No man is an island.”

Dean of St Pauls, John Donne (1624)

8. Why is companionship vital in the journey?
9. Why does this companionship also need to have a context, a common aim?
10. What does it mean to be a “fellow worker”?
 - Epaphroditus was not just a passenger, he was personally involved. He was so determined it affected his health. He was distressed, passionate for them and for the Gospel. His regard for others affected his health.
11. Did you know it’s possible to do a good job and not get along?

“In all relationships as we work together there can be tension. People talk about the elephant in the room. I have been involved in work where people don’t get on.

Private sector job – 30 years ago when there was tension, we were all reps of a company and there was an unhealthy rivalry.

When I was involved in politics years later, from a civil service context, it was painful to see the political rivalries of fellow ministers. They passed some great policies but there were some incredibly tense and somewhat vicious relationships going on.

That should not be so in our relationships.

People are more important than tasks.”

Pastor Brian Greenaway

12. What is more important to you – People or your tasks?

“We are fellow workers in the Gospel field.

There should be effort, endurance and loyalty.

It needs collaboration, trust and mutual encouragement.”

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13. What are the aspects of a good soldier?
14. What were the three things that Epaphroditus did?
15. Do you have a person or people that you are walking with?
 - Our situation may not be as obvious as Paul’s at first – but it is the same. We just need to change our perspective.
 - The Gospel is a matter of life and death. If our lives are focused on serving the Gospel we will experience:
 - Pressure
 - Opposition
 - Inconvenience
 - There will be sacrifice
 - There will be cost
16. Do you embrace your responsibilities?
17. What kind of life does God work through?

- The 3 aspects of Epaphroditus need to be balanced. You can't be one without the other: Brother, Worker, Soldier
 - Throughout this Thrive series we have broken down Philippians Chapter 2. We have looked at what it means to live a life in service of others – the principles of verses 1-4, the example of Jesus, being like our Lord, growing in maturity, shining as lights, holding fast to the Word of God. And being like these two examples that Paul gives us through Timothy and Epaphroditus.
18. Are you in these sorts of relationships: Do you see yourself as a brother/sister? A labourer? A soldier in the Gospel?
 19. Read [2 Timothy 2:1-7](#) (Soldier, Athlete, Farmer)
 20. Think about your Life Group leaders or those who serve in other leadership roles in BCC? Do you pray for them? Encourage them? Support them?
 21. They carry responsibility and often on a weekly basis serve us. Do you respect and honour their service to you?

Here is a principle in the building of the Kingdom:

It is people – God will provide the resources in response to our faith. If we are content, we won't move. But if we want to build, then we need to be brothers/sisters, workers and soldiers.

22. Read [1 Timothy 6:12](#)

Prayer:

Lord help me to honour those who serve the Kingdom of God at BCC, help me to pray for them and encourage them. In Jesus Name Amen.