- Pray for God to open your eyes to His glory as you study His revelation of Himself in 2:25-30
- Read 2:1-6 out loud 10 times before and after you complete lesson 11
- Read through chapter 2 in its entirety before you study this text
- Be sure to mark your Philippians Observation Sheet as you make discoveries about the text

Observations And Interpretation

1. What did Paul think was "necessary"? How did Epaphroditus get to Paul in the first place? See Phil. 4 for more information.

2. What were the first 2 reasons Paul thought this was necessary?

3. Why was Epaphroditus distressed?

4. What the Philippians heard about Epaphroditus was true, but they may not have known how bad his sickness was. How sever was his sickness according to Paul? How did Epaphroditus's situation turn around?

5. How does Paul show his great concern and love for Epaphroditus in v. 27? How did Paul's situation turn around?

6. What is the "therefore" in v. 28 drawing from?

7. Paul is eager to send Epaphroditus for what other 2 reasons?

8. Since Paul is sending Epaphroditus to the Philippians, they must do what?

9. What kind of men is Paul referring to by saying honor "such men"?

10. What is the reason they should receive and honor Epaphroditus?

11. Why was Epaphroditus risking his life? What was he trying to do according to v. 30?

Questions For Application

1. Some decisions in life, like sending Epaphroditus back to the Philippians, are not explicitly commanded in Scripture. What does this paragraph show us concerning what drove Paul to think that sending Epaphroditus to them was both necessary and urgent? Seeing Paul's reasoning will aid you when it comes to making decisions in your own life.

2. Go back through 2:25-30 and mark down the ways that Epaphroditus exemplifies 2:1-8.

3. Paul's 3 descriptions of his relationship with Epaphroditus teaches us about the Christian life. Explain what it means for a Christian to be like a:

   - Brother -

   - Fellow Worker -

   - Fellow Soldier -

4. Living for Christ in humble and obedient service is costly. List some "costs" that are currently most threatening to you. In other words, what are you wanting to cling to that holds you back from fulfilling 2:1-8 even more in your life?

5. Paul makes it clear that God helped Epaphroditus not die. God obviously has the power to do this, but we must also realize God has the power to never let it happen in the first place. Knowing God's absolute sovereignty over all things, why do you think God does not keep our life "sorrow-free"?

6. This passage makes it clear that God brought relief to Epaphroditus and Paul when things seemed to be getting worse. How does this fulfill the promise of 1 Cor. 10:13? What tempts you to think this promise is untrue in your life?

7. By God's grace, you may not be in the midst of deep sorrows right now, but do you know of someone who is? How could God use you to comfort this in this season of their life?

Write down a 1-2 sentence summary of the passage you studied this week

Write down at least one way you will implement something you have learned in this chapter