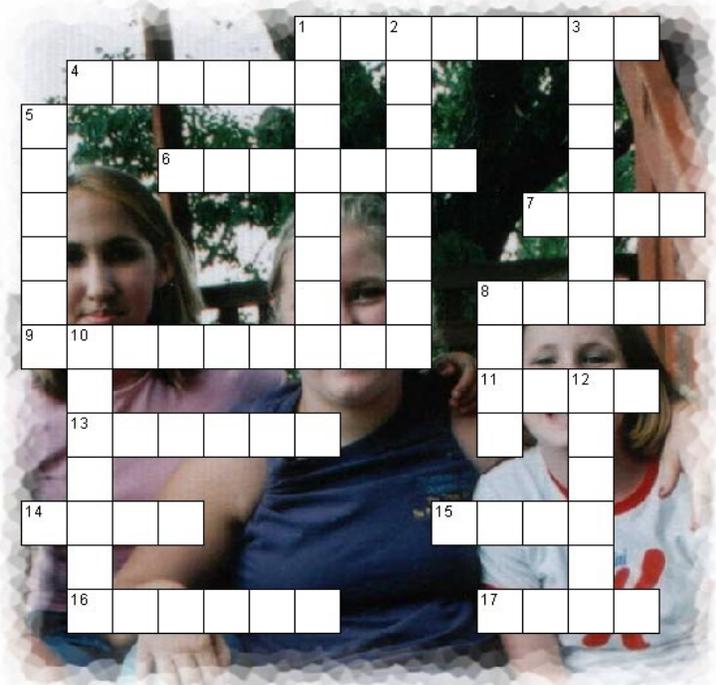


Crossword Puzzle

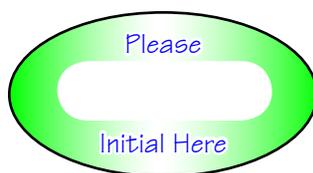


Across

Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ...fighting for the ____ of the gospel. | 1. The church in _____. |
| 4. The ____ in Philippi. | 2. ...a sweet smelling _____. |
| 6. ...Paul had needs for food and ____. | 3. ...fellow-_____, fighting for the progress of the gospel. |
| 7. ...offering the Philippians sacrifice (their ____). | 5. Paul considered Epaphroditus to be a ____ making the offering... |
| 8. But God had ____ on him... | 8. But God had ____ on him and he did not die. |
| 9. Paul was _____ and bringing... | 10. He was actually _____ his life. |
| 11. ...the good ____ of the gospel... | 12. ...fellow-_____ and fellow-soldier... |
| 13. ...the church in Philippi did much to ____ some of Paul's needs. | |
| 14. Epaphroditus risked his _____. | |
| 15. He had actually become very ____... | |
| 16. ...good news of the _____. | |
| 17. The ____ Jesus called the apostle Paul... | |

Parent's Initials:



God's Calling in the New Testament

- Lesson Twenty One -

In the Epistles – Epaphroditus

I. Overview.

The Lord Jesus called the apostle Paul and gave him a huge job to do – to bring the gospel to all the Gentiles. To accomplish such a great task, Paul had to be very bold and daring. He went from country to country telling people about the Lord Jesus and His salvation. Not everyone received the gospel. Some even hated Paul and persecuted him. Many people did receive the good news of God's salvation and some even left everything they had to accompany, help and support Paul in carrying out his burden. Paul could not do it all by himself.



Paul traveled to many places for the work of the gospel.

Wherever Paul went he could boast that he never asked the newly saved ones to support him or care for his personal needs. He left the care for his daily needs up to the Lord. After it was established, the church in Philippi did much to supply some of Paul's needs. Epaphroditus was sent from Philippi even to Rome to bring things to Paul. In doing this, he risked his life.

II. Memory Verse.

“Because of the work of Christ he drew near unto death, risking his life, that he might fill up your lack of service toward me.”

(Phil. 2:30)

III. Lesson.

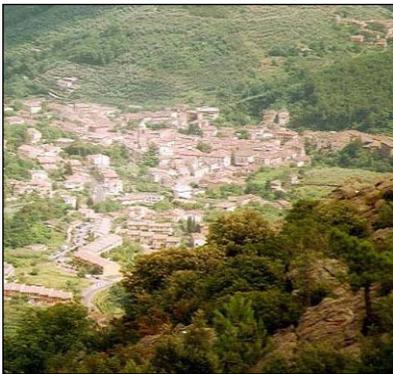
When the gospel is preached and people get saved, churches are raised up. It is part of God's purpose that the churches would help with the work of the gospel. Paul was traveling and bringing the good news of the gospel to many places. When Paul came to a new city, he did not ask anyone there to help him with his daily needs. Like anyone, Paul had needs for food and shelter.

The Church in Philippi

When Paul came to Philippi, a church was established there. The saints in Philippi realized that they had received a great salvation. They rightly felt that they needed to help with the work of the gospel. They began to help Paul with his daily needs, such as food, clothing and a place to stay. Sometimes they helped him directly. Other times they sent money or other things that he needed to him. Their help became very useful to Paul and to the work of the gospel.

A Brother Named Epaphroditus

Though Paul traveled far away from Philippi, the church continue to help him. They sent once and again to meet his need.



Epaphroditus risked his life traveling through the Roman Empire.

One time they sent a brother named Epaphroditus all the way to Rome to bring to Paul, who was in prison, things that he needed. For Epaphroditus to go to Rome and visit Paul in prison was a dangerous thing to do. He was actually risking his life.

Paul considered their gift to be like a sweet smelling offering

to God. He considered Epaphroditus to be like a priest making the offering of the Philippian's sacrifice (their gift).

Epaphroditus risked his life because the Roman Empire was not friendly to the gospel. He traveled into Rome, the very heart of the Empire, to bring the gifts to Paul. He actually had become very sick and came close to dying because of the work of Christ. But God had mercy on him and he did not die. This would have given Paul "sorrow upon sorrow." But because he did live, and brought the supplies to Paul, Paul was able to rejoice. Paul considered Epaphroditus to be a fellow-worker and fellow-soldier, fighting for the progress of the gospel. As such, he was very useful to Paul and to the Lord.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. What job did the Lord Jesus give to Paul?

2. Which church was faithful to provide the apostle Paul with things he needed for his daily living?

3. Who was the faithful brother from Philippi?

4. In what way did Epaphroditus risk his life?

