

— WEEKLY —
**BIBLE
STUDY**
NOTES

Reflection and Discussion

Read through [Philippians 2:19–30](#), which will be the focus of this week’s study. Following this, review the following questions concerning this section of the book of Philippians and write your responses. (For further background, see the ESV Study Bible, page 2284, available online at www.esvbible.org.)

1. In this passage, Paul gives practical updates on the health and the comings and goings of messengers. Such “travelogues” occur in other letters by Paul. Most often they occur at the end of a letter, such as in [2 Timothy 4:9–21](#). But in Philippians, this travelogue is in the middle of the body of the letter. Why might this be? What might it signify about [Philippians 2:19–30](#)?

2. Read [Philippians 4:1–18](#) with [Philippians 2:19–30](#) in mind. Using these passages and what you know of Paul’s situation from earlier in our study, piece together the narrative that is in the background of this letter. In other words, certain events have happened or will happen; what are they? (You should be able to list a half dozen or so.)

3. Why might Paul have felt the need to keep Timothy with him for the time being ([Phil. 2:19–23](#))? Why might Paul have felt the need to explain to the Philippian church his plans for Timothy?

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4. The apostle Paul had many mission partners and emissaries. In one sense, Timothy was just one of many. But, in another sense, passages like [1 Corinthians 4:16-17](#) suggest that Timothy was unique. Looking at [1 Corinthians 4:16-17](#) and [Philippians 2:19-26](#), what words does Paul use to commend Timothy? What words highlight the uniqueness of his relationship to Paul?

5.a. In [Philippians 2:25](#), Paul describes Epaphroditus in five different ways. List them and then spell each out in your own words.

5.b. Epaphroditus's work and worth are spoken of in lofty terms ([Phil. 2:25, 29-30](#)). But what was the "work" and "service" that Paul was referring to in [Philippians 2:30](#)? Are you surprised that such work garners Paul's lofty praise? Why or why not?
