**Finding Grace**

**Partakers of Grace as a Team**

**Philippians 2:2 -** *…being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

**Philippians 2:3 -** *Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit…*

**Philippians 2:12-13 -** *…work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

**Philippians 2:14 -** *Do all things without grumbling or disputing…*

**Philippians 2:15-16 -** *…so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life...*

3 examples of the kind of people who help the church family accomplish our task

**I. The Focus of Paul**

A. He was glad to be an offering

**v. 17 –** *…but even if I am being poured out as a drink offering…*

B. He valued what others on the team were doing

**Philippians 2:17 -** *But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith…*

C. He invited them to participate

**Philippians 2:17-18 -** *…I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.*

“Believers joy comes at the point of greatest sacrifice, because serving God is the supreme purpose of their existence…unfortunately, many believers experience joy in much the same way as the world does. When circumstances are favorable, they are happy; but when circumstances are unfavorable, they are sad and sometimes resentful. The only things that bring them joy are those that promote their own interests and welfare. But when believers seek to do the Father’s will and please Him, they view sacrifice for Him with joy. The reason many believers know little about Paul’s kind of joy is that they know little about his kind of sacrifice.” (John MacArthur, Philippians, p. 193)

**II. The Faithfulness of Timothy**

**2 Timothy 3:14-15 -** *You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

my true child in the faith – 1 Timothy 1:2

my beloved son – 2 Timothy 1:2

my beloved and faithful child in the Lord – 1 Corinthians 4:17

my fellow worker – Romans 16:21

our brother – 2 Corinthians 1:1

A. Because he was on the same page ministerially

**Philippians 2:20 -** *For I have no one else of kindred spirit…*

isopsuchos – isos (equal) and psuche (soul) – “equal-souled” or “one-souled”

**2 Timothy 2:2 -** *The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

B. Because he was genuinely concerned

**Philippians 2:20 -** *For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.*

**Philippians 2:21 -** *For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.*

C. Because his faithfulness was proven

**Philippians 2:22 -** *But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.*

**III. The Fearlessness of Epaphroditus**

**Philippians 2:27 -** *For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.*

A. The nature of his distress

**Philippians 2:26 -** *…because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.*

**Philippians 2:29-30 -** *Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.*

B. The adventure of his life