



Daily Devotionals

([click here to go to our website – stmatthewsrichmond.org](http://stmatthewsrichmond.org))

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-24 BEING A TIMOTHY

Written by Rev. Dr. Charles D. (Chuck) Alley, Ph.D., Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Va.

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

Timothy provides a model of Christian service. Here is a disciple of a disciple – one who has learned from one who has followed Jesus before him. While none of us can claim to have the experience and station of St. Paul, an Apostle, we are all in a position to be a Timothy. Like him we can serve with a mentor or Christian brother/sister who has been following Jesus longer by partnering in the work of the gospel. In that way we can learn the ways of the Lord and be supported as we grow in our ability and confidence.

In addition, Timothy's attitude toward others in the Church is one of "genuine interest." As he loves Jesus, so too he loves his brothers and sisters in Christ. For his focus is not on himself ("his own interests"), but on the children of God who are the "interests" of Christ.

¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:10-13)

We learn to follow Jesus by following those who are following Jesus. As Jesus came into the world in order to reconcile the world to the Father, which is the work of the gospel, so too are we as his followers to act as catalysts of reconciliation wherever we are. And the attitude we are to have toward others in the Church is one of compassion and concern.

Lord Jesus, Thank you for placing us in your community, the Church, where Pauls and Timothies are brought together under your headship. As the Church is imperfect and we are sinful human beings, help me not to expect a perfection in others than I am not able to attain myself. Rather, through the help of your Holy Spirit, empower me to have the compassionate concern for my brothers and sisters that will promote your will within the Church and enhance the witness to your lordship in the world. Amen.

[click here to go to our website – stmatthewsrichmond.org](http://stmatthewsrichmond.org)