**EXAMPLES TO FOLLOW**

**Philippians 2:19-30**

*“Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon so that I too may be encouraged by news about you. 20 For I have no one else like-minded who will genuinely care about your interests; 21 all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know his proven character, because he has served with me in the gospel ministry like a son with a father. 23 Therefore, I hope to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon.*

*25* *But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need— 26 since he has been longing for all of you and was distressed because you heard that he was sick. 27 Indeed, he was so sick that he nearly died. However, God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 For this reason, I am very eager to send him so that you may rejoice again when you see him and I may be less anxious. 29 Therefore, welcome him in the Lord with great joy and hold people like him in honor, 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up what was lacking in your ministry to me.”* (Philippians 2:19-30)

**THE BIG IDEA: God has given us great examples to follow in the Bible, and we are to be those examples to others for the sake of the gospel.**

**SETTING THE RIGHT EXAMPLE MEANS PRIORITIZING JESUS’ INTERESTS**

* *“Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon so that I too may be encouraged by news about you. 20 For I have no one else like-minded who will genuinely care about your interests; 21 all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”* (Philippians 2:19-21)
* **Making Jesus’ interests supreme in our lives demonstrates that we have truly been changed by the redemptive blood of Christ.**
* *“For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit.”* (Romans 8:5)
* *“[Jesus] said to him, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important command.’”* (Matthew 22:37-38)

**SETTING THE RIGHT EXAMPLE MEANS SERVING WELL IN KINGDOM WORK**

* *“But you know his proven character, because he has served with me in the gospel ministry like a son with a father. 23 Therefore, I hope to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon.”* (Philippians 2:22-24)
* **In a world where there is a lot of talk about what needs to be done, and about what the Bible says, we need to be active in Kingdom work demonstrating that we truly believe what we say about the gospel.**
* *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58)
* *“But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* (James 1:22)
* **God is looking for those who will put action to their words.**

**SETTING THE RIGHT EXAMPLE MEANS RISKING OUR COMFORT FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL**

* *“But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need— 26 since he has been longing for all of you and was distressed because you heard that he was sick. 27 Indeed, he was so sick that he nearly died. However, God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 For this reason, I am very eager to send him so that you may rejoice again when you see him and I may be less anxious. 29 Therefore, welcome him in the Lord with great joy and hold people like him in honor, 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up what was lacking in your ministry to me.” (Philippians 2:19-30)*
* **The calling of every Christian is to move beyond what is comfortable into the uncomfortable for the sake of more people knowing Christ and growing in Christ.**
* *“Therefore, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”* (2 Timothy 1:6-7)
* **There is nothing we sacrifice in this world for God’s Kingdom that won’t be rewarded far beyond anything we can imagine.**