

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

MARCH 2, 2025
BULLETIN ISSUE #09



SERMON OUTLINE

BE COMPASSIONATE

PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30 | ELDER RAYMUND SANCHEZ

In Philippians 2:19-30, Paul presents two living examples of Christ-like service. Timothy and Epaphroditus embodied the sacrificial love and selfless concern that Paul encouraged the church to pursue.

Timothy was a model of genuine concern. Paul described him as someone with a selfless heart (v. 20), truly caring for the welfare of the Philippians. Unlike many who pursued their own desires, Timothy contrasted with others (v. 21) sought the interests of Christ above all else. His proven character (v. 22) was evident in his faithful service alongside Paul, who viewed him as a spiritual son. Because of this, Paul hoped

in God's timing to send him on his future mission (vv. 23-24) to the Philippians. Timothy's life challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we genuinely care for others, or are we more focused on ourselves? True servants put Christ and others before their own ambitions.

Epaphroditus exemplified sacrificial service. Paul described him as a brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier (v. 25), emphasizing his commitment to the gospel. Despite falling seriously ill while serving, he displayed deep love for the church (vv. 26-27), worrying more about the Philippians' concern for him than his own suffering.

His near-death dedication (vv. 28-30) was evident in his willingness to risk his life for Christ's work. His story calls us to consider whether we are willing to make sacrifices for the gospel.

These two men lived out the humility and selflessness Paul taught in Philippians 2. Their lives reflected Christ's example, reminding us that faithful servanthood is not about recognition but wholehearted devotion.

Are we serving selflessly like Timothy? Are we willing to sacrifice like Epaphroditus? May we, like Timothy and Epaphroditus, be faithful servants of Christ. ✨

GOD'S GRACE IS ENOUGH

T. KAREN MONROY

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

2 Corinthians 12:9

This verse is a good reminder of how God's grace is and will always be sufficient for us. In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, the Apostle Paul talks about a "thorn in the flesh" that was given to him to keep him from being conceited. Though Paul did not explicitly state what this thorn was, some suggest that it can refer to a physical condition, persecution and opposition, or a spiritual or personal struggle that he was experiencing.

Paul pleaded with God three times to remove this thorn. But instead of taking it away, God responded with the powerful truth found in verse 9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Instead of removing Paul's hardship, God reassured him that His grace was enough to sustain him.

Paul's response was remarkable. Instead of complaining, he embraced his weakness because he believed in God's

power and allowed it to be more evident in his life. He even said in verse 10, "For when I am weak, then I am strong."

This verse reminds us that God's grace is enough for whatever we face. Whether it is a physical pain, emotional struggle, or spiritual challenge, His grace is enough! Instead of focusing on and seeing our weaknesses and vulnerability as burdens, we can view them from a different perspective—a place where God's power is present. Trust that He is with you and He will see you through because His grace is enough. While this may be easier said than done, one helpful way to remind us of this truth is by seeing and embracing God's grace daily.

Embracing God's Grace Daily

In today's fast-paced world, it is easy to become consumed by responsibilities, distractions, and the constant rush of life. When life moves quickly, we tend to focus on what is urgent, forgetting what is truly important. We miss the small blessings, the answered prayers, and the quiet ways God is working in our lives. God's grace is all around us day in and day out. His love, mercy, and presence can be seen in every moment of our lives; at times we are just too preoccupied to see it.

Life often feels overwhelming, filled with pressures, responsibilities, and unexpected challenges. In these moments, it is easy to rely on our strengths—what we have and what we can do—forgetting that it is God's grace that sustains us. There is daily grace in God's grace. His grace is not just a one-time gift; it is a daily provision for us that strengthens and renews when we feel weak and inadequate. All we need to do is remind ourselves of God's grace and embrace it daily.

God's grace is evident in both the extraordinary and the ordinary. It is in the sunrise and in the sunset. It is in the strength that we have to endure a difficult day. It is in the peace that calms our hearts and souls when faced with challenges. It is in the encouraging words that we hear from our friends and loved ones. When we take time to pause and reflect, it is then that we take notice and are reminded that God's grace surrounds us no matter what and no matter where.

So, no matter what challenges you might be facing today, remember that God's grace is enough and that we can be reminded of this as we intentionally take notice and embrace God's grace daily. ✨

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