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As with last week these homegroup notes will be a little shorter and simpler to make it more manageable for studying on zoom.

This week at Magdalen Road Church we continued our series in Philippians as we examined three examples of what gospel shaped living looks like. There was very little by way of new teaching or instruction from Paul, simply flesh and blood embodying the obedience Paul is looking for.

Paul – servant

Despite Paul being in lockdown his concern is to give away his best and serve the church in Philippi. We noted that his desire for the gospel to be spread means that he is prepared to go without. Paul is an example to us of what gospel servanthood looks like.

Timothy - selfless

Timothy is THE example of concern for others (cf language of 2v3&4) that Paul outlines as one who cares for the needs of the Philippian church. We noted that he is proven in his service as he has engaged in gospel work with Paul. As we have concern for people, that must include a concern for them to understand the truth of the gospel and the reconciliation with God who made us. We noted the encounter that Jesus has with the paralysed man (Mark 2) - his greatest need was not to walk, but to have his sins forgiven.

Epaphroditus - suffering

Epaphroditus models, in some senses, the trajectory of Jesus as he is prepared to physically suffer for the gospel and he is honoured for this. We talked of the need for sustainable sacrifice as we do give up comfort and embrace hardship and yet in a manner that is sustainable for the long term.

Here are some brief questions to help your group engage with the passage and its application

1. how does Paul's service of the Philippian church challenge you? How ought it to challenge us as a church?
2. How does Paul describe Timothy? What does this mean?
3. What do you make of a paradise as being on it? How would we treat him?!
4. What do you make of the concept of being a 'sustainable sacrifice'?