

## **Sermon: Working Out With Personal Trainers**

**Text: Philippians 2:12-30**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Our passage today deals a good bit with legacy—the impact our life will have on future generations.
  - Who are some people that come to mind when you think of people who have left behind a lasting legacy? What was it about their lives that left this kind of legacy?
  - What would you say are some of the most important aspects of a legacy?
  - Do you think people are fully aware of the legacy that they're leaving as they live their lives in real time?
  - What legacy has been handed down to you—and by whom?
  - What kind of legacy do you think you are leaving with your life?
- Paul addresses this notion of a legacy in Philippians 2:16: “And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.”
  - Do you think Paul is actually concerned by the fact that his life won't leave a lasting legacy for future generations?
  - What do you think it means to “run or labor in vain”?
  - Do you ever share Paul's concern that you are running or working in vain?
- What needs to happen to keep Paul from feeling like he labored in vain? (vv. 14-16a)
- What do verses 15-16 have in common with Daniel 12:1-4?
- What does verse 17 indicate that Paul thinks MIGHT happen in his near future?
- What do verses 19-24 tell us about Timothy? What is it that Paul emphasizes about him?
- How does Paul's description of Timothy line up with the first 4 verses of chapter 2? (in other words, is Timothy the KIND of person that Paul is calling the Philippians to be?)
- What do verses 25-30 tell us about Epaphroditus?
- What does Paul's feelings towards Epaphroditus tell us about Paul? (v. 27)
- Why do you think that Paul would have experienced “sorrow upon sorrow” if Epaphroditus had died of his illness? And how does that “jive” with Paul's later admonition to “rejoice in the Lord always”? Is it possible to rejoice at all times—while at the same time be overcome with grief?