

**Going Deeper With the Sermon**  
**January 28-29, 2012**

**Philippians 2:25-30** – <sup>25</sup>Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, your messenger and minister to my need; <sup>26</sup>for he has been longing for all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. <sup>27</sup>He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. <sup>28</sup>I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>29</sup>Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, <sup>30</sup>because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.

**Observation (what...?):**

- What does Paul say about Epaphroditus to indicate that he is valuable?
- When has someone made you feel valuable? When have you done the same for someone else?

**Interpretation (why...?):**

- Alf told us that Paul uses the word “apostle” rather than simply “messenger” in v25. Why do you think Paul used “apostle” and “soldier” to describe Epaphroditus in this letter to his home congregation?
- Paul says to “honor such people” in v29. What kind of people is he talking about?

**Application (how can I...?):**

- Alf asked us to stand for “such people.” How do you even notice “such people?”
- For whom will you stand? How will you stand for them?