

## ARE YOU CONCERNED?

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Thursday, April 30th 2020

### *Philippians 2:19-24*

*"I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon."*

In this passage of Paul's letter to the Philippians, we read of Paul being stuck, yet he takes every chance to stay in close relationship with his brothers and sisters. He chose to reach out to the church not only by mail but also through Timothy, whom he desired to send to the Philippians to refresh them in the gospel.

Timothy was not just some random guy, who was available to go on a trip with Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25), he was someone who had walked alongside Paul; Timothy had been equipped and was strong in his faith. We read that he shows genuine concern for the Philippians' welfare, which tells us that he knew these people and the situation of their church. This makes me ask myself: do I have a genuine concern for others' welfare? Am I naturally concerned for them? Do I have a sincere desire to see others come to know Jesus, as Paul and Timothy did?

During this time of Corona, we may indeed be confined to our houses and cannot therefore just get up and travel far and wide to reach out and encourage a church; but we do have time to pray and reach out to those that the Holy Spirit lays on our hearts.

We have the joy of Christ carrying us through this period, but many do not! Instead of looking out only for our own interests to fill our time, we need to keep our eyes on Jesus, and share this hope that we have in Him with others. This is a time and chance we will never get back, so let us encourage each other and in turn be encouraged our Father's goodness.

Who has God put on your heart today? We want to encourage you to take that leap of faith, step outside your comfort zone and reach out to them! Who knows what God has in store?

**Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, help us to have a heart of genuine concern for the people around us, as Paul and Timothy had, for people in our church and especially for those around us who don't know you. Jesus, allow us to not let this time of Corona go to waste, but fill our hearts with a longing to spread Your Word and Your joy to those that feel hopeless. We thank You for being our constant in the storm. Amen.*

-Philipp & Stephanie Gronewald-

