

Philippians 2:19-22 *¹⁹I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²²But 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. SELF-INTEREST

A. Life is filled with decisions: We choose things in life

1. Whether our decisions are instinctive (without thought) or reflective (thinking it through)

a. *What we do with our time/money/relationships/ministry/exampleship*

B. The most common basis of choices: **Self-interest** *V21 For everyone looks out for his own interests...*

1. **Personal viewpoint:** What do I see in this situation/this option? ME!!

a. *Movie going on in their head in which they are the star at all times b. Other people only factor into how it affects their movie!*

2. **Personal cost:** How will this affect me? What will it take from me? Time/energy/\$/work/boredom...

a. *Paul needed someone to travel to Philippi and see how they were doing: Time/effort/separation/\$ cost*

3. **Personal advantage:** What can I get out of this? What's in it for me?

a. *A financial advantage b. A positional advantage c.*

4. Selfish choices/selfish living is the most common way of living/making choices

II. A WIDER VIEWPOINT

A. We are not the only people in the world!

1. **God is involved in our lives:** *V21 For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.*

a. **God cares** what we do/what we choose!

1. *B/C He owns us: 1 Cor 6:19-20 You are not your own – you were bought with a price*

2. *B/C He has plans: What do your choices do to His plans? Your life – the work of God?*

2. **You are connected to other people:** Family/children/church/ministry/work/school...

3. **You are connected to those in ministry:** *V19 that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.*

a. Pastors you may owe b. Pastors that have to make choices that affect/help many others c. Personal

1. *Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and act under their authority. They are watching over you, because they are responsible for your souls. Obey them so that they will do this work with joy, not sadness. It will not help you to make their work hard.*

B. It is sad to see the negative impact of those who choose only based in self-interest

1. **They can cause harm to other people**

a. *Set a bad example b. Cause harm with their words c. Discourage others d. Reproduce difficulty (other selfish people)*

1. *Hezekiah: God spares his life. Shows Babylonians kingdom. Judgment is coming: Sons will be castrated!*

a. *His response: Your sons will be castrated – but not while you're alive. Oh – that's OK, then. Boys weren't excited!*

2. **They have a negative impact on the work of God:**

III. CHOOSING FOR OTHERS

A. We must see things clearly/differently in life!

1. **We may need to repent of our self-interest/selfish viewpoint:**

2. **We need to ask God to help us to see His viewpoint – see others:**

3. **We need to ask God's viewpoint about our decisions: Beforehand! Have you asked God about this?**

4. **We need to deliberately ask ourselves about the impact of our decisions: From other people's perspective**

a. *What will this do to God? (His feelings) b. What will this do to God's will? c. The work of God?*

c. *What will this do to my wife? Children? Other family? e. New converts? f. Church? g. Ministry?*

B. At the end of the day: We should want our lives to be a blessing

1. **I want to be a blessing to God/His Kingdom:** *Colossians 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

2. **I want to be a blessing to other people:** *My life will help – not hurt; Lift up – not drag down*

a. *V20 I have no one else like Timothy...*

C. This attitude/viewpoint in life is where destiny is birthed

1. We should live like this – to not get anything out of it

2. But God is able to use those who will live for other people

a. *V22 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.*