

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

May 23, 2022

A Shelter, A Connector, A Kiss

Living the Liturgical Year

Philippians 2:12-30

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I, too, may be consoled by news of you. ²⁰ I have no one so like myself who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.

REFLECTION

In many ways, technology has been a gift to us these last few years for helping us stay connected. But we also know how distracting it can be and can lead to over-consumerism. The New Testament letters were actually pieces of technology, sent along the same Roman road that allowed transportation and commerce to take place. **In what significant ways has technology kept you connected to the body of Christ these past few years?**

Philippians is known as Paul's most intimate, joyful, and personal letter: *So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well.* (Phil. 1:9-11, *The Message*) Later in verse 11, we are encouraged to *live a life that Jesus himself would be proud of.* **How can we grow into people whose lives reveal the presence of God in how we love much and love well?**

If handled wisely and well, technology can help deepen our connection as humans and spiritual believers. Paul uses the technology of his day to shape and form his people across the miles. We become more like Christ when we are physically with other believers, but God also works over distance to keep us connected. **What are some news ways you might be able to deepen some of your relationships through technology?**

We have the gift of using the tools God puts into our hands to further the mission of the body of Christ. Paul's letters were personal, carried by a person, read by a person. Paul's model of hybrid technology is both high-tech and high-touch. **Think about ways you can do this with your own relationships; for example, meals with friends while staying close through texts.**