

# Philippians 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

## Analysis

**Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants** (Ἀναγκαῖον δὲ ἡγήσάμην Ἐπαφρόδιτον τὸν ἀδελφὸν καὶ συνεργὸν καὶ συστρατιώτην μου, ὑμῶν δὲ ἀπόστολον καὶ λειτουργὸν τῆς χρείας μου, πέμψαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς, Anankaion de hēgēsamēn Epaphroditon ton adelphon kai synergon kai systratiōtēn mou, hymōn de apostolon kai leitourgon tēs chreias mou, pempsaï pros hymas)—Paul introduces Epaphroditus with five titles showing relationships:

1. adelphon ("brother")
2. synergon ("co-worker")
3. systratiōtēn ("fellow-soldier")
4. apostolon ("messenger/apostle")
5. leitourgon ("minister, servant").

Anankaion hēgēsamēn ("I considered it necessary") indicates urgency. Synergon ("co-worker") shows ministry partnership. Systratiōtēn ("fellow-soldier") uses military metaphor for spiritual warfare. Apostolon hymōn ("your apostle/messenger") means Philippian-commissioned delegate (not apostle in Paul's sense). Leitourgon tēs chreias mou ("minister of my need") shows Epaphroditus brought Philippians' financial support (4:18).

After Timothy (vv. 19-24), Paul commends Epaphroditus (vv. 25-30) as another Christ-hymn exemplar—risking life for others (v. 30).

## Historical Context

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Epaphroditus traveled from Philippi to Rome (800+ miles, dangerous journey) carrying the Philippians' gift to Paul. Ancient travel was slow, expensive, and perilous (bandits, shipwreck, illness). Churches commissioned delegates to represent them—Epaphroditus was Philippi's ambassador. He fell seriously ill in Rome (v. 27), possibly from travel hardships or ministry exertion. Paul sends him back with this letter.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. Which of the five titles (brother, co-worker, fellow-soldier, messenger, minister) best describes your relationships in ministry?
2. How does the military metaphor ('fellow-soldier,' *systratiōtēn*) shape your view of Christian life?
3. Who has 'ministered to your wants' (*leitourgon tēs chreias*) sacrificially, and how have you honored them?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἀναγκαῖον	δὲ	ἡγησάμην	Ἐπαφρόδιτον	τὸν	ἀδελφὸν	καὶ
it necessary	Yet	I supposed	Epaphroditus	G3588	brother	and
G316	G1161	G2233	G1891		G80	G2532
συνεργὸν	καὶ	συστρατιώτην	μου	ὑμῶν	δὲ	
companion in labour	and	fellowsoldier	my	your	Yet	
G4904	G2532	G4961	G3450	G5216	G1161	
ἀπόστολον	καὶ	λειτουργὸν	τῆς	χρείας	μου	πέμψαι
messenger	and	he that ministered	G3588	wants	my	to send
G652	G2532	G3011		G5532	G3450	G3992
πρὸς	ὑμᾶς					
to	you					
G4314	G5209					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Philippians 4:18** (Parallel theme): But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

**Colossians 1:7** (Parallel theme): As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

**1 Corinthians 3:9** (Parallel theme): For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

**Philippians 4:3** (Parallel theme): And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

**Proverbs 25:13** (Parallel theme): As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

**Philemon 1:24** (Parallel theme): Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

**Hebrews 3:1** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

**Colossians 4:11** (Parallel theme): And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

**1 Thessalonians 3:2** (Parallel theme): And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

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