

With a Name like Epaphroditus

We know the stories of a few of the early Christians. Peter, Paul, Mary Magdalene and others motivate us to live for the Lord. We know other Christians by little more than their names. What is in a name? (My thanks to William Shakespeare for his contribution to this article.)

Today we might choose names for our children that have a good ring to them, that carry on family tradition, that say how we feel about them when they are born, or that project what we want them to become. In ancient times, many names were common, but more often than today they bore significant meaning.

In Philippians 2:25-30 and 4:18 (and in those Bible passages alone), we meet a Christian named Epaphroditus. What were his parents thinking when they chose that moniker? I hope his graduation from kindergarten didn't require proficiency in spelling his own name; and then wait until third grade when he had to learn to write it in cursive! His name was common among Greeks and Romans, but so was devotion to false gods. Maybe his parents only meant "handsome" or "charming" by the name they gave their son. But do you detect the name of a false god in the name Epaphroditus? You have heard of "Aphrodite", the Greek goddess of love. When they named him Epaphroditus, his parents might have been praising Aphrodite for giving him to them. Or they might have been dedicating his newborn life to Aphrodite.

Somewhere along the way, Epaphroditus made his own choice to dedicate his life to

the living God. Like Lydia, the jailer, their households, and others in Philippi, he heard the truth about the Lord Jesus, believed on Him, and was baptized (cf. Acts 16:11 15,25-34).

How devoted to Christ was he? Here is what Paul told his fellow Christians in Philippi about him: "I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me" (Philippians 2:25-30).

Might there be a message for you in the name of this Epaphroditus? Family heritage does not have to hold you back. Wrong religion does not trap you. You are not a captive of your culture. You decide! Faithful Christians want you for a close brother or sister. We want you to be our fellow worker, fellow soldier, a messenger and a servant of Christ. God wants to grant you his mercy in Jesus Christ. Christ who died for you and rose from the dead is worth your life. Nothing else is. That's what Epaphroditus thought. What about you?

Danny Boggs

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

Phone

(417) 451-2724

Email

info@neoshochurchofchrist.org

Website

www.neoshochurchofchrist.org





Kay Anderson, Travis Bell, Carol Bessman, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Becky Cobb, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tammy Crawford, Joe and Teresa Freund, Coral Haggard, Gael Jackson, Molly Jackson, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Lyn Pendergraft, Charlie Phillips, Mebyl Privett, Brandon Ross (Debi's grandson), Rylee Schroeder, Harold Speir, Stephanie Talley (Vera C's granddaughter), Edith Toney.

- **Glen Honeycutt** is continuing daily treatments. We are praying especially for healing of the heart valve.
- **Mary Jane Flint's** hip replacement surgery has been rescheduled for April 25.
- Darry Sandtorf, uncle of Matt Hayes and Josh King, has been placed in a care facility and is declining quickly.

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. Last week we helped a mom of six who had lost her job and is having financial difficulties. If you know someone who needs help, contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts is Tuesdays at 7:00 in the activities center. It is a great opportunity to invite a friend and join others as you start your day on a positive note.

When you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

Meet at 5:30 tonight to learn a **new song** that we will be singing during services. This is one of the "Sing More" lessons so come prepared to worship in song.

Today's Sermons



A.M: *The Right Time to Walk Away from Jesus*
(John 4:42-54, Danny Boggs)

PM: *Sing More: Jesus Is Risen*
(Danny Boggs and Casey Flint)

Several of our kids and their families are headed to the **Lads to Leaders Convention** this week. We want to pray for their safety and for them to enjoy the opportunity to demonstrate what they have been practicing for months. They have been studying the book of Joshua. We are proud of our students! Good luck to: Matthew, Liam, Corbin, Annie, Jonah, Grace, Wendy, Amelia, Ellie, Roxxi, Isis, and Wyatt and Brady Honeycutt who are going as part of our group.

Make sure to get registered for **Green Valley Bible Camp**. Our week is June 12-18. The theme for this year is "The Happiest People on Earth". You will want to be a part of this week! The camp registration fee is \$150. Go to their website and register soon.

If you would like to help pay for kids to go to our week at Green Valley Bible Camp this summer and for our programming there, please give your **donations** to Danny Boggs or Coralee Risley.

There will be a **K-6 Family Cookout and Devo** on Saturday, April 23 at 5:00 at Danny and Jessica Boggs's home.

Our **gospel meeting** starts in two weeks, April 24-27. We are looking forward to hearing from Dan Winkler. His manner of preaching will provide great encouragement to you and all those you bring with you. Invitations are on the welcome desk. Plan now for who you will bring. Be praying for this special event.

Our **Spring Formal** for high school students is Saturday, April 30! We'll have a blast spending an evening together in Rogers, AR. RSVP with Caleb by Wednesday, April 20.

Neosho Christian School is seeking highly qualified, passionate individuals to join their team for the 2022-2023 school year. The following positions are available:

- Administrative Assistant
- Elementary teacher for Grades 1 and 2
- Math teacher for grade 5- 12

There is more information on the bulletin board. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please see Amanda Flint.

NCS Banquet is Saturday, April 30. Dan Meers, KC Chief Mascot, is the speaker. Call the school to reserve your place.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

This Wednesday

AM Opening Prayer: Jim Friend
AM Closing Prayer: Jason Bryan
Communion Prayers: Alec Fehring
PM Opening Prayer: Charlie Collinsworth
PM Closing Prayer: David Fehring

Announcements: Carl Cobb
Singing: Pat Andrews
Invitation: Darren Pierce
Opening Prayer: Casey Flint
Closing Prayer: Elijah Boggs

RECORDS

4-3-22

4-4-21

Bible Study	161	156
AM Worship	212	227
PM Worship	132	128
Wednesday	154	136
Contribution	\$8,225.62	\$9,015.77
Budget	\$8,250.00	\$8,000.00