

A pair of bright yellow rubber boots is shown stepping into a pool of water. A large, energetic splash of water is captured mid-air, with many droplets visible. The boots are reflected in the dark, rippling water below. The overall scene is dynamic and celebratory.

# Philippians

Finding Joy...

Right Where You Are

A person wearing bright yellow rubber boots is stepping through dark water, creating a large, dynamic splash. The water is dark and turbulent, with many white droplets and bubbles captured in mid-air. The boots are partially submerged, and the splash is concentrated around the point of contact. The background is dark and out of focus.

Why does God use some people greatly and  
others not so much?

Philippians 2:17-30 NKJV

# What Kind of Person does God Use?

*<sup>17</sup> Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.*

*<sup>18</sup> For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.*

# What Kind of Person does God Use?

*<sup>19</sup> But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.*

# What Kind of Person does God Use?

*<sup>20</sup> For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.*

*<sup>21</sup> For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.*

# What Kind of Person does God Use?

*<sup>22</sup> But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.*

# What Kind of Person does God Use?

*<sup>23</sup> Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. <sup>24</sup> But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.*

# What Kind of Person does God Use?

*<sup>25</sup> Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;*

# What Kind of Person does God Use?

*<sup>26</sup> since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. <sup>27</sup> For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.*

# What Kind of Person does God Use?

*<sup>28</sup> Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. <sup>29</sup> Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; <sup>30</sup> because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.*

# What Kind of Person Does God Use?

How does God want us to spend our lives?

1. Sincerely seeking the welfare of & care for others.
2. Seeking Christ, not only our own interests.
3. Developing Proven Character.

When is the last time you prayed and asked God to make you more available to others and flexible for His use?

# Continuing the Discussion

- Was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
- What does seeking the welfare and care of others look like in your surroundings? How can you do this?