

“The Message to the Philippians Part 2”

By Brother Parrish Lee

Sunday, August 9th, 2015

Thankful to be back; wonderful time there. Plenty of stories for another time. But, as I said, it's wonderful to be back. I heard it was marvelous message; almost made me a little jealous, but I did get a chance to hear it. Wonderful, wonderful time. We have said that this month, this month would be the month that we would go through the Book of Philippians. Our Scripture thought for the month is simply:

Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Giving honor to that same Almighty God. Giving honor to our Creator, the One who is the Lover of our souls. The Bible calls Him our advocate, the Shepherd and Bishop, the Bible calls Him the Rose of Sharon, the Bright and Morning star, and the Lily of the Valley. The Bible calls Him He that lives forever and ever, the ancient of days. The Bible calls Him the Bright and Morning Star, and it calls Him the Lamb of God. Giving honor to Him. Giving honor to all those who have gone before us, here at the fellowship: our funding pastor, he and his family, our pastor, he and his family, and all those who have come and stood in the gap to make up the hedge. I'm very thankful for men and women and families of God who say, "It is worth the cost; it is worth the cost."

And, having said that, we'd like to go to our Scripture for the day:

Philippians 2:1-4 *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

If we could just bow our heads for just a moment. Lord, we do come to You, and we are constantly amazed. We sing Your songs of worship, but You outshine them all, Almighty God. We stand in Your presence and are just breathless and wordless when we behold Your beauty and Your comeliness and the wonderful majesty of Your Spirit. We ask, we ask Lord, that You would just treat us as Your children; sons and daughters. Give unto us our daily bread as we ask of You, for You have guaranteed that, as You said, that Your word would not return unto You void, but would accomplish that which You sent it, and we ask, even so, Lord, let it be. This we do pray and claim in Jesus' name, and everyone said, amen.

First of all, glad to be back, and second of all, I hope everybody—we had several calls and texts, a lot of people are having some vacation time, some family time, where they're spending time with their families; our prayer is that everybody has a safe time, and return safe also. Wonderful time with our families, and this is honorable in God, for He is the creator of the families. Amen? He created man, He created woman, and all that came from them. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Last week, Brother Jesse—wonderful message, by the way, Brother Jesse. Yeah, I got a little helper to help me out with that. Wonderful message: This Gospel Must Be Preached. This Gospel Must Be Preached. He went to the Book of Philippians, chapter one, and he had three main parts, he said, 'God opens the door and God shuts the door.' He also said, 'God finishes what He starts,' and that, 'Suffering is not the End.' I really, really liked a couple of parts where he talked about the place of Philippi actually got their name from the father of Alexander the Great. Very interesting. And, he made a really strong

point when he talked about, where the scripture says, “I pray that your love abounds...” and how our love *needs* to abound. And he talked the message of evangelism, the message of evangelism.

We’re going to take a couple of pages out of that book, now, as we go through chapter two. Actually, this is actually two messages... Don’t be afraid. I know, Brother Jesse, you said last week’s message was kind of short, so I could take some of your time and put it on this week, but I don’t think anybody’s going to put up with that. Plus, it takes too much to clean this suit if they start throwing tomatoes and eggs; I don’t think I can have that. But, there’s actually two messages: Message number one is the message *to* the Philippians, the message *to* the Philippians, and there is another message right along that, and that is the message that is in those that lived in Philippi, in those that lived. So, there is a message to the Philippians, and we call that the Book, or the letter, of the Philippians, and, there’s a message in the people who actually lived there. And we hope that we can talk a little bit about both of those, and we pray that this message is very beneficial for us.

And, actually we’ve got four parts to the message, and six points.

Part 1: It Starts with Love

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,” Apostle Paul says, “Fulfil ye my joy...” If there be any consolation in Christ, comfort of love, fellowship of the Spirit, bowels and mercies, fulfill ye my joy, “being likeminded, having the same love...” So, it starts with love. It starts with love. A familiar theme, as our pastor had said it some years ago, and that has actually been the key of so many things for our walk with Christ as he mentions to us in Philippians chapter two, it starts with love. If ye be likeminded, having the same love, the same love, being of one accord and one mind. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. What same love? That same love, it was given to Apostle Paul, it was given to Apostle Peter, that came from the Lord Himself, that love.

Be likeminded, having the same love, and, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory...” I was in New Jersey, at a family reunion, and they talked about the plight of some of the churches that have gone, and he said, “You know, sometimes people just get in an unforgiving state of mind, where they think they’re more right than somebody else. They take a stand on something, and they don’t want to see any other way than that way. They got some strife in the church, and strife has been known to break up churches. Or, there’s an element of somebody, they need as much glory as somebody else, and, so, they think they are as good or better than the pastor, or deacon, or the elder, or board member or usher, or whatever. They think they should be there, they should as many kudos, so they’ve got the vainglory, and that also brings a lot of discontent into God’s house.” But, Apostle Paul says, “Let nothing be done with strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Part 2: The Church Is Built On the Lord Jesus, and Everything Is Beneath Him

Philippians 2:9-11 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

He had to tell the people of Philippi that—they were a part of Greece, way back when, and we know they had the infusion of the Greek gods; Greek mythology, everybody’s heard of that, we learned about that in school—back then, it wasn’t just myths, it was religion for people. They had these towers and these temples, and they would go in there and worship—and he would tell them, “Look, God hath

highly exalted who? the Lord Jesus Christ, and has given Him a name which is above every name. And, this Lord Jesus, everything in Heaven bows to His name, and everything on earth, and t=everything *under* earth bows to His name. In other words, there's nothing that's going to be over God's head, here. And ain't nothing going to walk right up to Him and be bold enough to take Him on. Ain't nothing going to slip on by; everything bows to that precious name, the Lord Jesus Christ. So, they were witnesses that, "Oh, you mean, all the Greek gods and the Roman gods?" Yes! All the Philippian gods and the pagan gods? Yes! What about all the natural gods? What about the gods of pride, and envy, and strife, and and... Yes, yes, yes! Everything bows to the Lord Jesus Christ. Well, hallelujah! Hallelujah! That's good to know. It's good to know that this one is not a roll of the dice. This one, here, is the one true and wise God. Now we have to go to our Scripture of the month:

Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

If God has begun a work in you, He will finish it. If God has begun a work in you, it don't matter how you feel, it don't matter what you know, it don't matter where you are, it don't matter what you been through. If God has started something in you, God will finish it. It's just incumbent on us to make sure that we stay where God wants us to be so that that blessing can get there, and not put anything in the way. Nothing in the way, between me and what God has for me. I had a person who was teaching me in the faith some time ago. He had left, and he came back, and, when he came back, some people who were younger in the faith than me, and they asked him, "Hey, I heard that you were really, really strong. What happened? How did you fall away?" and he said, "Well, you know, God would lay on my heart to fellowship with somebody, and, you know, I'd go watch a TV show or catch a movie. Or, He'd lay on my heart to pray; I'd go shopping. Not that there's anything wrong with shopping. Or, God would lay on my heart to read the Bible, and, you know what I would do? just not read the Bible; I'd find something else. So, all those blessings that God was trying to give to me, I would say no to them. Soon, I found that I just couldn't get all excited about this message any more. But, after I got out into the world, I discovered that there is nothing out there for me. It is God and God alone." So, if God says that he wants to bless you, make sure you stay where He wants to bless you. Make sure you don't have anything in the way, and listen to what he tells you. And, here's another point about this: When God says He's going to bless you, He's going to bless you for real, and real good. And, you will not outlive His blessing. I want to make a really plain point about this: People say, "A blessing is an instantaneous, a momentary thing, and then I'll move on to something else." No! You will not outlive God's blessing. God told Abraham, "I will bless you. Your seed will be like the sand in the sea," and that's still going on, thousands of years later. That blessing is still rolling. In fact, not just Abraham. I don't know anybody that has died that actually used up everything they had; spent every dime, ate every last bit of food... Every time God's going to bless you, that blessing outlives you. Outlives you. He has so much for us.

Part 3: Christians Have to Watch Their Tongue

Philippians 2:14-16 *Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.*

Christians have to watch what we say. "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." You ever know someone that just complains about everything? If it's summer, it's too hot; if it's winter, it's

too cold; if it's nighttime, it's too dark; if the sun is up, it's too bright. If they don't have a job, they complain about not having a job; if God gives them a job, they complain about the job. They complain about their family, and, when they're away from their family, they complain about that. Complain, complain, complain, and please don't let them talk about the church. This sister that, that brother this, the leaders that, you know, the pastor this. Complain, complain, complain, but, a; those things that they could complain about, ask them, just ask them, "All these things that you're complaining about, if you're a Christian, have you lost any sleep in praying over any of these things? This brother, that sister, your family, the job, any sleep at all, when you've taken it to God?" Generally, that's the end of the conversation. But, the truth is, God doesn't like it when we murmur—murmur, murmur, murmur—God doesn't like it when we murmur and have disputings and discontent; God doesn't like that. And He doesn't like it when we do it with the things that He has given us. In fact, according to this, in verse number sixteen, "...holding forth the word of life..." Those are the words that God wants us to hold. If we hold forth on murmurings and disputings, according to verse fifteen, we will not be blameless. But, according to verse sixteen, if we hold forth the words of life, as He has called us to be lights to the world. God's called us to be the lights of the world; speak life. Speak it! Speak something that brings light on the scene. Speak something that helps somebody, that enriches the situation. Take it to the throne, that God may bless it.

Now, those are the three parts of the message *to* the church. Now, there's a message in the church, in the people of Philippi. Brother Jesse, I'm going to have to borrow a couple of the statements you made, they were just so good. As you were talking about acts chapter sixteen—I'm glad you didn't go over all the points—I've been dying for this message for weeks, and, actually, this is supposed to be Brother Chris's turn, I said, "Chris, I can't hold it any more! I got a little Jeremiah welling up in me!" (Jeremiah 20:9) And Chris said, "Okay. Okay, go ahead; we'll see how you do." Actually, he was okay with it.

We're talking about the message *in* Philippi. Those were messages *to* the Philippians, but this is a message *in* Philippi.

Acts 16:11-12 *Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.*

So here is where it gets started, they'd gone to several different places, and, as Jesse said, sometimes God shuts a door in one place, and He opens another door in another place. Why? because God has a will, that's why. And this is what was going on. God took him places, and now they're at Philippi, and they're abiding certain days.

Acts 16:13 *And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.*

So, point 1: The Message in Philippi, "Philippians is a place where we go to seek God, and get interrupted." We go to seek Him, and we get interrupted. You ever think, "I'd like to get a little fellowship, or maybe I could pray with somebody, or I could pray for myself. Maybe I'll do some paying, or listen to some music. Just something I want to do to seek God," and something comes along to interrupt you. Then you're in the land of Philippi. Then you're with the Philippians. If you get interrupted when you go to seek God, then you're in Philippians.

Acts 16:14-15 *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were*

spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

Jesse made the point last week, this is the beginning of the church of Philippi. Hallelujah. A whole group of women, but one of them, one of them, a single one was enough, and the Bible says that God opened her heart. Was this message just for her? No! No! According to the Scripture, her and her household got baptized. The beginning of ministry at Philippi started with Lydia. “If you found me faithful, come and abide with us.” Her household. It doesn’t say how many, but it makes reference to it a little later on.

So, point 2: Philippians is a place of evangelism, where they went and they shared with the ladies that were there, and salvation. Number One, it’s a place that, when you go to seek god, you get interrupted, but it’s also a place of evangelism and salvation.

Acts 16:16-24 *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.*

So, this whole thing started out—if I was Apostle Paul, “You know, all we wanted to do was go down and pray. That’s all we wanted to do.” Actually, if I was Apostle Paul, I would have had a better answer than that. But, all it started off with was wanting to go and pray. And, here, after sharing with Lydia, after sharing, her household getting baptized, after them receiving the faith, they go on, trying to get to prayer, and there’s a woman with a spirit of divination.

Point 3: Philippians is a place of persecution. It’s a place where, if you live godly in Christ Jesus, yes, there’s somebody that’s going to talk about you. Somebody ain’t going to like it. Somewhere along the line, people are not going to be happy with it. This just happened to be a person with a spirit of—no, it wasn’t the spirit of false prophets, it wasn’t the spirit of belligerence and anger, it wasn’t the spirit of malice—this was a spirit of divination; it as a spirit of gambling. It started out as a gambling spirit, just following them around. A gambling spirit? Yes. A gambling spirit that led into greed, which led into anger, because spirits don’t generally come alone. They come regimented. If you think you’re just fighting one battle, you’ve got to pray the whole thing out, the whole thing out.

And, so, as he casts the spirit out of her, and the people who had gotten their gain, they saw it was all over; the good-luck charm was no more good luck. As this happened, they said, “These people do exceedingly trouble our city. We’re tired of this Christian stuff. Get it out of here!” What happened? they beat them, just because they were Christians. They beat them, and they threw them in jail. They beat them; they beat them, and they threw them in jail.

When we were in Israel, we got a chance to see the jail, the kind of jails that they get thrown into. Several people were there. It was literally, it was like an upside-down cave. So, the bottom of it was like hollowed-out, and there was one little stone stairway to get down there to it, and there was like a hole

on top, so, when they say, "...thrown in jail," you literally got pushed and thrown down into jail. It was quite a thing to see.

And, so, they were fastened, in other words, they put chains on them, and they closed the gates, and they were all lowered down there... They didn't have no electricity back then. So, it was kind of dark. And, I would suppose, right about now, you would think, "Wow, talk about being discouraged. Ah, I could be discouraged." But, this isn't the end of the story, when they were in Philippi; this isn't how the story ends.

Acts 16:25 *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*

So, at midnight... Midnight is normally talked about as being the middle of the night; that's when it's supposed to be the darkest, in the middle of the night. At midnight, that's when they began to worship. When it's darkest, when it's hardest, when it's most challenging, they began to worship, they began to pray, they began to open up and seek and tell God how good He was, and how to bless His name. When it's darkest, when it's the most trying, and everybody else that was there heard them praising, and praying, and singing. All of the other prisoners heard them, and that's for a reason. Because the next thing they heard was an earthquake, and they know that it wasn't Caesar, it wasn't a magistrate, it isn't anybody else that brings an earthquake on the scene but God Himself, the One that they were praising, and praying, and shouting, and singing to. And this earthquake came for a specific purpose. God sent an earthquake; the Bible says that it shook up the foundation of what was holding them. So, not just the gate was open, but their shackles. Not, and earthquake, I can see, structurally, it will tear off a gate, but the shackles? Because when God sends an earthquake, He sends one for real. When God's going to loose you, He's going to loose you for real! All the way back—yes, He's going to open the gate! Yes, He's going to take the shackles off! Yes, He's going to make a way! And, yes, He's going to let you know what's going on! So, here we see (Point 4:) Philippians is a place of deliverance. It's a place of deliverance.

Acts 16:27-31 *And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*

So, here, the earthquake, not only did it loose all the prisoners, and they saw access to this one God that Paul and Silas were praying to, but it woke up the jailer. It woke that guy up. He saw everything open, and he knew, "Oh, man, my keepers are going to kill me; I might as well kill myself." But the Bible says, yeah, it was midnight, so there was no light, no electricity. The Bible says Apostle Paul, God showed that to him, and he said, "Do yourself no harm," and *then* he asked for some light to be brought in. First I need to save you, and then I need to bring you some light. And you know what the jailer asked? He didn't ask, "How did you guys have the power to do it?" He didn't ask that. He didn't ask, "Man, you guys must be pretty strong! Wow, it went all the way down to the shackles!" He didn't ask any of that. He didn't even ask, "What's the name of your God?" He asked, "What do I got to do to be saved. I see that whatever God you're talking about, he is the real God. What do I have to do to know God?" And Apostle Paul shares with him how to see him saved, and his family. So, we see here that (Point 5:) Philippians is a place of answers and salvation. Answers and salvation.

One more point, and then one more part.

And we're just going to skim over this (Acts 16:34-40). Here, we see that, in the morning time, what happened was they called—the people who bet them, and put them in jail, called and said, “Go ahead and let them go.” But apostle Paul wasn't going to take that. “Now, this isn't about freedom. This is about what you did to God's servants, and this is about everybody that saw you do it, and they need to know.” He said, “No, if you want us loosed, you come down here and loose us.” And they got scared about that. And so, we see that (Point 6:) Philippians is a place where you take a stand for the God.

Now, back to our last part:

Part 4: Those with Testimonies

Philippians 2:19-22 *But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.*

Here, this part, part four, we talk about Timothy. When he talks about Timothy, he says a couple of things. Paul was sending Timothy to the Philippians, to the church at Philippi. Why? obviously, Timothy was a good communicator. He says that, he says, I need to know your state. I'm sending Timothy, because he's one who's going to tell me about your state. Timothy was a good communicator. And, also, he said, “I have no man likeminded that naturally cares for you.” Have you ever known somebody that really had, it seems like they had a whole different level of love. You know? I mean, it seems like they care for people. They care how you are doing, they care about your job, they care about your family, they care—they just care about you, and other people. You ever have—it's hard to find somebody where they have a big enough heart where they just care for everybody. A whole different level of love. And Apostle Paul said, “I have no man likeminded that naturally—it's not that he taught himself—he naturally cares for you. I ain't got nobody like him, and that's why I'm sending him to you. I'm sending him to you because I want to know your state, and he cares for you.”

Philippians 2:25-30 *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. For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.*

Epaphroditus, Epaphroditus; this was Apostle Paul's minister. This was the man who made it his business to his leadership. He said that this man had put it to such a state, such a place that it made him sick; so sick, that it nearly killed him. And, he says that it was not because he was a yes-man, he says it was for the work of Christ. And then it says that he was trying to make up for the loss that others were not doing; yes, you at Philippi. Yes, you at Philippi, my minister Epaphroditus was sick because he was making up for your lack. That's why. And, I'm sending him to you. So, I'm sending Timothy, who naturally cares for you, and I'm sending Epaphroditus, the man that ministers to me.

Now, what do you think that they would learn from these two? One the one hand, you had Timothy, who cares and loves them so much, so, obviously, they're going to learn about how to love each other; that's what they're going to learn from Timothy. On the other hand, we have Epaphroditus, who

shows up, who lets his life be a hazard of sacrifice, and showing, “I minister to my leadership, because I realize that, if Apostle Paul is taken care of, then so are the churches at Philippi, and Galatia, and Thessalonica, and the churches of Colossi, and the churches in Hebrews, and the churches in Corinth. All those churches are going to be taken care of, if I can make it easier for him.” So, they’re going to learn to work with their leadership on one hand, and see the Gospel go forth, and, on the other hand, they’re going to learn to love each other. So, what kind of Church are they going to have after these two brothers go and minister? They’re going to have a church full of Love. A church full of love. Amen.

