

# “The Message to the Philippians Part IV”

By Jesse Rairdon

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You may be seated, please. Brother Bob H., if you could come and lead us in prayer.

**Bob:** Bow your heads, please. Jesus, this is the time we receive Your Word, Jesus, from one of Your servants that standing up here, God. God, first I pray, Jesus, that Jesse would just step aside and let Your Spirit flow through him. There’s a lot of needs in this room, Jesus, and wherever the sound of Your voice travels, God, to those, too, God. God, I also pray, Lord, for those hearing Your Word, today, Jesus, that we would apply it to our own lives, God, whether it’s just a blessing, or a rebuking, or a correction, or whatever it may be, Jesus. Thank God. Like I just heard someone say, have Your own way in our lives. God, just let Your Spirit move and flow like never before, for Your servant, here, God, and for those that are around this room, God, and receive such a great blessing from You, today, God. God, I ask all this in Your most powerful name that’s on this earth, and that name is Jesus. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Philippians. How many have been enjoying the series on Philippians? I tell you what, I’ve learned so much about myself, so much about our ministry, so much about the church in Philippi, so much about just people in general; how people interact with one another... So, this is The Message to the Philippians Part IV, this week; just a little recap of the previous 3 weeks:

In week 1, we talked about This Gospel Must Be Preached; three main points were:

1. God opens the door and God closes the door.
2. God finishes what He starts. He finishes what He starts in your life, and He finishes what He starts in ministry. Amen.
3. Suffering is not the end. Of course, because Jesus said the Gospel must be preached, and then, the end.

In week 2, Parrish really had two messages within a message: The first one was the message to the church, and then there is the message *in* the church. And he had five main parts to it:

Part 1: The message to the Church starts with Love. Whatever we do; whatever we go to say, started with love. With love. Let your motivation be love.

Part 2: The Church is built on the Lord Jesus, and everything else is beneath Him. Everything else is beneath Him.

Part 3: Christians should watch their tongue.

Part 4: Those with Testimonies.

And he had some other points I want to highlight, here, too:

I really like when he expounded about how we can’t outlive Gods blessings, how they are everlasting to everlasting. When He blesses you with something, when He tells you He’s going to do something in your life, that blessing is going to outlive you. Amen?

- Philippians is a place where we go to seek God and get interrupted. When they went to go pray, to seek God by the river, they got interrupted because someone needed to be saved. Which brings up the next point:
- Philippians is a place of evangelism and salvation.

- Philippians is a place of persecution. You're going to suffer persecution for what you believe, and what you talk about, because they did suffer persecution, and we do suffer persecution.
- Philippians is a place of answers and salvation. When they were in the midst of the persecution, when they were in jail, God performed a miracle. But, then, as a result of that, someone asked, "What do I need to do to be saved?" So, it's a place of salvation.
- Philippians is a place to take a stand for the God you believe in. Take a stand. If you don't stand for anything, you'll fall for everything. Somebody just took a stand for God.

Week 3, Chris talked about Counting the Cost. He had three main points:

1. Counting the Cost
2. Pressing towards the prize
3. Our Resurrection

He shared about what we have to give up as we count the cost. We can't just start, say, "Here am I, sign me up," and not consider what we're getting into. We've got to leave some stuff behind, all right? You can't just say, "Sign me up, Lord, I'll live this Christian life, because anyone who's ever done that, they didn't last long." You've got to count the cost—even Jesus said it—you've got to consider what you're getting into. Is a king going to go against an army and say, "I got that army taken," or is he going to say, "I don't have enough to defeat them; maybe I better make peace with them." You've got to consider it, is this something you want to do the rest of your life, or is this just a short-time thing? This may be just a phase you're going through, or, "Someone just talked me into something," and then, "I'm out of that." You better count the cost. Not trying to re-preach what you said, Chris, but that was really impactful.

Then he talked about, of course, his second point was Pressing for the Prize, and you can't press towards the prize until you count the cost. You have to keep pressing towards the prize.

Then he talked about our resurrection, and one point that really stood out to me was:

God is going to change our body and all that will be left is our soul. How much is your soul worth to you today? How much is your soul worth to you today? Is it worth more than all of the fame, fortune, and glory that the world seems to provide? What's that all really amount to in the end, if you really weigh it up to the end, is it worth losing your soul for all these things that the world has to offer? What will a man give in exchange for his soul? Amen?

So this brings us to Part 4 of the Message to the Church at Philippi. We're going to cover three areas today:

1. Working with others in ministry
2. Keeping focus on the right things
3. Giving with purpose

## **1. Working with others in ministry**

In verse two, Paul, in this final chapter—of course, it wasn't verses before, it was just one big letter, it kind of ran in together, we're going to go by verses so that we can kind of pinpoint some things.

***Philippians 4:2*** *I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.*

It doesn't say anything else about those two, but it says, "...that they be of the same mind." I'd like Parrish and Andy to come up and stand beside me for a moment. They didn't know I was going to pick on them today. What we have here is to totally different men. Different men in appearance, different men in, maybe, countenance, different men in, sometimes, in the way you have certain things, size, culture, one is, you know, a different race than the other, and yet, they have the same mind. Now, look out amongst you, how many different people are here? maybe about a hundred people. There's a lot of different people here, but we are to have the same mind in the Lord.

(Turning to Brother Parrish and Brother Andy) Thank you. Always willing to be good examples. I appreciate it.

**Philippians 4:3** *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.*

There are ladies who labored with Paul in the Gospel. They took care of a lot of the little things, things that most people overlook. I tell you what, my house would be crazy if my wife overlooked things like I overlook things. "Could you please take your shoes off? They're wet; you're going to track on the carpet." "Could you take care of this?" or "Could you put that back where it goes?" All the little things that I'm just oblivious too. I don't know if I'm blind, or I just don't care, or... She sees those things, and women have a place in ministry for those things, because they take care of a lot of the needs in our church and our ministry that most people overlook. Work with those ladies, brothers and sisters. You might not be in charge of a certain area, or leading a certain area, but work with our sisters. Paul thought it was important to bring that up, so I thought it was important to bring it up here. Where would this ministry be if we didn't have people that had a heart, and cared for our seniors? Or, if we didn't have those who have a focus on our youth? If we didn't have those who have a heart to reach out to the military and go to the base? When most of us are at home with our families, eating dinner, they're out there, making themselves available, sharing with these sailors, praying with them, meeting their needs, right where they're at. Where would this ministry be, if we didn't have these people?

## 2. Keeping focus on the right things

Working with others in ministry is important. I can tell—I want to make this point. There was this couple in Italy; I was just a young man in another part of Italy. The communication had stopped. And, Pastor Thomas, at the time, was in charge of foreign missions. He said, "Jesse, I want you to go over there, and see what's going on." When I got there, they were to different cultures. They said, "We have nothing in common." I said, "You have the Lord Jesus Christ. How about we start with that? You can grow and learn from each other and start doing fellowship." Sometimes God puts you in uncomfortable situations to kind of make a point. We've got to work together in ministry, no matter where we come from. Whether we're young, whether we're old, whether we came from the suburbs, whether we came from the inner city, whether we came from the farm, like me, we've got to work together. We all bring something to the table; we all meet one another's needs.

**Philippians 4:6-9** *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be*

*any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

Where does your mind go when you have free time? Where do you think, or what do you focus on, when it's just your time, just for a moment. That's what you're thinking about, but he gives us a list of things that we should think about, and it starts with prayer. You're not going to really have the peace of God until you really focus in and pray, and then you can start to look at that list, and say, "God, let me start to weigh this up." Being careful for nothing, he says. It's praying for everything. There's nothing too small, nothing too big. Never say to God, "I got this; You just step off." Even if you think it's a little matter; that little matter can become a big matter. Trust me. I've been there, done that. I'm not wearing the T-shirt today, but I've been there, done that. See, the peace of God comes through prayer. If you don't feel peace that day, and you're in turmoil; you didn't pray. It's that simple. It starts in prayer. Keeping focus on the right things will help you do the right things.

Things like.... Truth. This matter that's coming at you, have you weighed it up with truth? Is this true? Is this right? Is this in the Word of God? Weigh it up.

Things like... Honesty. Am I honest in this? Are they honest in this?

Things like... Just- I want to share this definition of just because sometimes we just sort of look over words, or we kind of read through it, or gloss over it as we're going through the Bible. It comes from the Greek word:

**δίκαιος** *díkaios*, dik'-ah-yos; from G1349 (in the Strong's Concordance); equitable (in character or act); by implication, innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively):—just, meet, right(-eous).

1. righteous, observing divine laws
  1. in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God
    1. of those who seem to themselves to be righteous, who pride themselves to be righteous, who pride themselves in their virtues, whether real or imagined
    2. innocent, faultless, guiltless
    3. used of him whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God, and who therefore needs no rectification in the heart or life
      1. only Christ truly
    4. approved of or acceptable of God

We pray, "Is this just?" Are you bringing God's 'just' into this situation? What does God think about this? "God, do You like this, or do you dislike this?"

Things like... pure- what are my motives? Are they innocent, modest....clean? Prayer will cause me to consider that, if it's pure, the thing I'm about to go to do. If I'm wrong, cause me to get it right. "God, show me where I'm wrong." Cleanse me, make me pure in my thoughts and my actions. Amen?

Things that are lovely... friendly towards, i.e. acceptable:—lovely. In other words, in this situation, am I going to show myself friendly towards somebody, or am I going just to combat, and show that I'm right, and prove everybody else wrong. Thing that are lovely. No, it's not just talking about the pretty girl who sits in front of you in church. It's a little more than that. Amen? We do have pretty women, especially my wife, I know. I'm going to shout out to my wife. She's home sick, today, so keep her in prayer. I'm going to share with her when I get home. I'll make sure, because you guys will tell her.

Things that of a good report... Now, God wouldn't just let me step away from and brush over things that are of a good report.

Let's step away from Paul's letter for just a moment and go to the Old Testament. We're going to talk about the difference between a good report and a bad report. You see, the Children of Israel had been given a promise of a vast land that had everything to offer them. All the promises of God. Twelve spies were sent to go spy out the land. Ten of those spies brought back a bad report, and had nothing good to say, and two of them brought back a good report. Let's see how the story unfolds.

**Numbers Chapter 13:25-33** *And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

But you kind of see the difference between the two reports. Two of them are saying, "This is ours; God's given it to us, and let's go up and take it, now. Let's not delay," but the others are like, "Wait a minute! Did you see the walls? Did you see how big these people were? You know what? We were small in our sight, and we ended up being small in their sight." That's the kind of feeling, when we go to look at a situation negative, and we think we can't handle what's coming, we can't, because we've already thought that we can't. We've got to change the way we think in order—and that comes through prayer—think on these things, so that we can bring a good report and inhabit what God has for us.

**Numbers 14:1-10** *And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.*

That goes on; if time permitted, I would read the whole chapter, but, I tell you what, there's a lot of good meat on them bones. Basically, it go to the point where God said, "Enough. EEEenough of your negative attitude, people! I'm going to destroy them all. Get rid of them all. Start over. And Moses and

Aaron, basically, talked God out of destroying them all. So, God's judgment was, for every day—if you don't know what the number forty means, it really means complete. Complete circle. It's good to understand numbers when you read and seek out things in the Bible, because they went out and spied out the land for forty days, so, forty years, one year for each day, they were going to wander in the wilderness until all their carcasses fell out because of their evil report.

All the time, Caleb and Joshua kept trying to push what was right. Kept trying to say, "No, no, no, no, you don't get this. God's already given it to us. They're bread for us." There are situations in your life that you can't overcome because you're already defeated. But you can see here how this evil report affected the whole congregation. It affected everybody. Sometimes all we have to say is evil; how does God feel about that? When you bring communication to your elders, to your leaders, to the people you work with in ministry, bring good. When you think, "This may not look good right now, but I know God's going to see a way through this," instead of saying, "We don't have enough people." God's got enough people right here to do what he wants to do. God can take a few people and see a nation try to be changed from their negative attitude; God can do anything. God will bring the laborers; pray for the laborers. Stop worrying about what you don't have and use what you have. God has given you everything; God has taught some of you for years, and you've been waiting, and waiting, and waiting to use what God has taught you. Stop waiting! Bring a good report.

Prayer will cause you to think about that. If you stop and pray before you go to communicate something, "Is this good or bad?" Sometimes, people at work, all it is, is negative, negative, and it brings you down. How do you think leaders feel if all you bring is bad stuff? How about you leave a message, "We met a couple of people on the base today, and we prayed with them."? How about, "We met over at Sister So-and-so's house, and we prayed and had great fellowship."? How about we visited this person in the hospital, and prayed for a miracle, and there were people just outside the door, kind of listening in, just to see what was happening."? God does those kinds of things. Bring the good report; bring the good fruits. Some of you re still wandering around in the wilderness thinking that you have to pay for somebody else's sins. It's time to stop wandering. It's time to enter into the Promised Land. The promises that God has given you in ministry, and the resurrection, are there for you. Stop wandering around worrying about what somebody else did or didn't do. God's called *you*, now, to do something. Amen?

Time doesn't permit me to go over the rest of this story and hear the end result, but take some time tonight when you go home to look at this a little further. Amen?

If you run across people, and all they have to say is negative, avoid them. All they are doing is poisoning the well we all drink out of. Avoid them. Don't even give them the time of day. There's a difference between somebody that wants to be restored, and drink good water, and somebody who wants to poison the well. Amen?

Now, let's continue in Philippians 4:8. Let's kind of go over that again.

**Philippians 4:8** *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

Let's think about virtue for a minute.

ἀρέτη arētē, ar-et'-ay; from the same as G730; properly, manliness (valor), i.e. excellence (intrinsic or attributed):—praise, virtue.

1. a virtuous course of thought, feeling and action
  1. virtue, moral goodness
2. any particular moral excellence, as modesty, purity

There's a whole lot of attack against manliness, and against fathers in our society today. This is a good thing that God's instilled. It's not a bad thing. We've got to raise our youth, our young men to have these qualities.

When you pray, "Is this virtue? Am I bringing virtue to this situation?"

Think about praise....

ἔπαινος érainos, ep'-ahee-nos; from G1909 and the base of G134; laudation; concretely, a commendable thing:—praise.

To give someone or something praise.

When you go to encourage somebody, to praise somebody. Bring praise to the situation. To give somebody a praise.

Now to our final part in Philippi, the Church of the Philippians:

### 3. Giving with a purpose

**Philippians 4:15** *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, [When Paul had that vision, when he baptized Lydia and everybody, that's what he's talking about right there: Acts chapter sixteen] when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

Now, remember, I talked about the history of that area; Phillip the conqueror conquered it because there was a lot of gold there, so they had resources. Do you think that God knew that they had those resources, so he would stir the hearts of those people that had those resources so that they could provide ministry for other areas that lacked? This is what this is talking about in this letter here, "...only you communicated with me..." That's why the door opened there. You've got to start somewhere that's solid that's going to be able to support the rest of the ministries that you're going to go do. Money answereth all things, or resources (Ecclesiastes 10:19).

**Philippians 4:16-17** *For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*

Think about that for a minute. Not because I just wanted you to give money, Paul's saying, but because I desired fruit to your account.

**Philippians 4:18-19** *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. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Do you think we're going to be short if we give? God's going to supply all your needs. Sometimes we think we shouldn't give, maybe because of decisions that were made. Sometimes we think because the preacher didn't preach well enough, I'm not going to give. "Maybe you'll get his money, but not mine." But every excuse that you find *not* to, you're excusing yourself from the blessing of God to supply your needs, and your family's needs. You're not doing it of necessity; you're doing it because God wants

to bless you. God wants fruit in your life. The church in Philippi was the only church that communicated with Paul with this. That's a whole 'nother level of giving, that's giving with a purpose.

The church had resources; it takes resources to meet the needs of ministry. Not only in money, but in efforts, in talents, and time. The end result is, God gives us more; God gives them more. This is a different level of giving; giving with purpose. God desires to bless you through your giving, not only money, but time, talents and availability are ways we can communicate this.

What if there is a need for mentoring teen-agers, young men and women, and you have the time, you have the ability, you have the training, you could meet that need, but you never communicate it? You're never going to bear fruit, unless you communicate.

What if you're good at hosting people, or cooking, I mean, your food actually tastes good? That's not me. You might eat to survive with me, you might eat a hotdog or a hamburger off the grill, but, my wife, it's ministry when she cooks. People are happy. They're not trying to shove the rest to the dog under the table. It's a blessing. Communicate those things to the leaders. Do you think sometimes these young people from the base might want a home-cooked meal instead of always going to starving, or grabbing a quick bite? Maybe you could open up your home, invite them over, and share a little bit about the experiences of your life, and host them, encourage them, teach them. Amen? Remember Priscilla and Aquila? You never know who's going to come for those type of settings. What kind of part in life God's going to change. Amen?

Remember you can't outlive God's blessings and you can't out give God.

Let's close with Paul's letter as Paul would close it, in his own words:

**Philippians 4:20** *Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Remember, we talked about that, that there's nobody above the name of Jesus. Everything else is beneath Him.

**Philippians 4:21** *Salute every saint in Christ Jesus...*

Everybody that's working together, work together.

**Philippians 4:21-22** *... The brethren which are with me greet you. All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.*

So, he's in Rome; he's being a testimony. Souls are being saved, even in Caesar's household, through our suffering.

**Philippians 4:23** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

Give the Lord a praise.