

“God Will Supply Every Need”
By Senior Pastor Tom Harrison
Philippians 4:14-23
July 31, 2022

Paul loved the Philippians because they were his partners when he was in need. They gave repeatedly and sacrificially. He explained the Lord would provide for their every need. Paul and the Philippians loved each other. Like the Lord, Paul gave to them first, and then they reciprocated. That is what friends do. Friendship is give and take. When we love, we give. ALWAYS. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son....”* Our Lord’s generosity was for the benefit of all who would trust Him. Everlasting life comes as a gift. The generosity of the Philippians, combined with Paul’s labor, subsidized his work in nearby Thessalonica and Corinth (550 miles south). A “need” is different from a “want.” We can burden ourselves with envy and greed if our “want list” becomes too much. Jesus told a story about such a man. The punch line is, *“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”* (Luke 12:20-21) Generosity has a way of returning to the giver. Solomon wrote, *“One gives freely yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”* (Proverbs 11:24-25) The last thing Paul told the Philippians was about the grace of Jesus Christ. The New Testament presents Jesus as the source of all riches: *“...which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* (Colossians 2:2-3). After 29 years, the time has come for me to hand over the leadership to Andrew Forrest. I’m certainly no Apostle Paul, but I can understand his feelings about loving a church. Asbury has been that place for Dana and me. I can also feel the joy of handing it over to a young “Timothy” in Andrew. Let us do all in our power to ensure that we will be Andrew and Elaine’s full and complete partners. Let’s seek unity and joy like Paul, Timothy, and the Philippians enjoyed. The Lord will provide. God supplies every need. Like Paul, the last thing I’d like to say is also about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be the Glory for the great grace we have received. Like Paul, let’s share it. Let’s Help Others Follow Jesus.

APPLICATION: Our memory verse this week is: 4:19: *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.* Our theme is **GOD SUPPLIES**. We can grow our generosity in many ways. *“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”* (Galatians 6:7) What will you do to plant good seed by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

Philippians 4:14-23 Pew Bible #1167

Phil 4:14-23 *Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. ²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

A 5-G sermon

SLIDE #1 **GRATITUDE** for their partnership in the gospel. *Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.*

Relationships. They made continual gifts. It is remarkable that Paul was joyful in spite of all his circumstances. He wasn’t writing from the lap of luxury. He’s suffered countless beatings, shipwrecked, stoned, sickness (a

persistent thorn in his flesh), and he will be executed. Gratitude is at the heart of Christianity. And grateful people live better. Studies have shown that grateful people have fewer physical symptoms and are more optimistic. For a Christian, gratitude is not just a positivity technique; it is a deep disposition toward the Lord. Grateful people count blessings not their burdens; they get better not bitter.

SLIDE #2 Their **GENEROSITY** ¹⁶*Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.* ¹⁷*Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.* ¹⁸*I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.*

Their generosity blessed Paul. They were not wealthy. To live in poverty in the New Testament era meant that you might not have food, shelter, or clothing. But what truly comforted his heart was that the Philippians sent a member of the church—a man named *Epaphroditus*—to once again bring a financial gift to support him. In fact, it appears that the gift they sent him was so sacrificial that they put *themselves* in a condition of need. Paul was deeply moved by the fact that they would do something like this for him. There was no way he could repay them. But God could.

It also blessed them. It blessed others so they could come to Christ. They got a return on their investment in Paul. Generous people live better lives. Having more stuff will bring us short-term happiness but it does not last long. Learning the discipline of generosity is one of the best ways to develop our affections for the Lord. (*“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*)

SLIDE #3 To God be the **GLORY**. ¹⁹*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.* ²⁰*To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.* **“God”** is the source of our lives. He will **“Supply”** – we hear a lot about the “supply chain” being broken or disrupted now. Things don’t get to where they are supposed to go on time. **“Every need”** – not want.

Christians can go to an extreme on this – they believe God wants everyone either to be wealthy or to be poor. Verse 19 is saying that if you put your trust in the Lord, he will supply your needs. Paul is in prison. He wasn’t even entirely sure whether he would be released or executed. But it was alright with him. He was content to trust God either way. Their generosity blessed the Lord. To God be the glory. God will supply our needs, too. That will happen individually, but also with the church. What does this mean?

God dwells in glory. It explains the sphere of His existence. *“Glory”* comes from the Greek word, *“Doxa.”* We get the word *“doxology”* from it. We get to sing our *“doxology”* or our *“glory to God.”*

SLIDE #4 **GREETINGS**. ²¹*Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you.* ²²*All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household.* 3 terms here: They are **saints** (those who are in Christ are saints), and they are **brothers** (part of the family of God). Paul was not alone. Quite possibly, Luke and Mark (who wrote the Gospels). Timothy and Epaphras were there. Maybe Philemon and Onesimus, the runaway slave, too. Aristarchus and a man named *“Jesus,”* (not to be confused with Jesus the Christ). Colossians 4:10-15 *Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions— if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.*

The gospel has penetrated even into Caesar’s household. We have always been part of a much wider network – the body of Christ – literally all over the world. We are **BETTER TOGETHER**.

SLIDE #5 **GRACE**. ²³*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.* One of my axioms = *“It always begins and ends with grace.”* Paul began Philippians by talking about grace – and that’s how he ends.

SLIDE #6 GRATITUDE GENEROSITY GLORY TO GOD GREETINGS GRACE John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

1 Corinthians 3:5-9 *What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*

“A Message From Tom Harrison” June 11, 1993

“Disciple-maker. Caring. Prayerful. Integrity.” These are but four the words I would use to describe Bill Mason as a pastor and Bill Mason as a person. For 29 years he and Jayne have lived out their faith with you and you have experienced them as people who are genuine, Christian people. What a wonderful relationship you have shared together! Bill and Jayne have impacted people far more than either they or you will ever know. They remind me of that Ray Boltz song, “Thank You!” which says in part: “Thank you for giving to the Lord! I was a life that was changed...I am so glad you gave.” That song, which Boltz wrote in appreciation for his pastor, is so powerful in expressing the truth that WE are Christians because someone has loved us into the kingdom. That Asbury is what it is today is a reflection that Bill and Jayne and this body of believers in Christ have done things right for these years. Having a great location is superb – but there are lots of churches which have excellent locations which never experience what Asbury has received these 29 years. As a team, you have done so many wonderful things on behalf of Christ, that I, too, have been impacted. So thank you, Bill and Jayne, for who you are and what you have done! You’ve left a legacy at Asbury this is simply awesome. And thank you Asbury, for responding to the Masons through these years and for being the witness for Christ that you’ve been.

I am very excited about continuing the many traditions Asbury is known for and I look forward to working with you so that the next 29 years can be as bright, productive, and honoring to Christ as they last 29 years have been! I’ll see you this Sunday, Tom