

When God Says, "Well Done!"  
Philippians 4:14-23; Matthew 25:14-30

Introduction:

If there was ever a preacher that had a special relationship with his people it was the Apostle Paul. Before concluding this letter to these beloved Philippians, Paul wanted to express his deeply felt gratitude to them. He had a special relationship with them since the founding of the church at Philippi. At one point in Paul's ministry many years earlier, they were the only church that had supported him financially. Now they are sending him a gift and verses 10-19 is basically his thank-you note to them.

The Philippians' generosity was especially meaningful to Paul because it reached him during a very trying time in his life. He was a prisoner in Rome, confined to a small apartment and was guarded around the clock by Roman soldiers. He could no longer minister with the freedom he had once enjoyed.

*Acts 28:30 ...he dwelt two years in his own hired house and received all that came to him.*

*Acts 28:16 And when we entered Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him.*

F.B. Meyer:

"Paul was deprived of every comfort, and cast as a lonely man on the shores of the great strange metropolis, with every movement of his hand clanking a fetter, and nothing before him but the lion's mouth or the sword."

Pastor Tim:

"People who live for themselves only are mighty small people."

Food For Thought:

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

Great truth:

God will supply your needs "ONLY" after you've given sacrificially to meet the need of someone else.

*Proverbs 11:24-25 There is one scatters, and yet increases; and there is one that withholds more than is meet, but it tends to poverty. <sup>25</sup>The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that waters shall be watered also himself.*

*Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lends unto the Lord; and he which he hath given will he pay him again.*

## I. Paul's Commendation for Their Spiritual Commitment

### A. Paul Commended Them With for Their Gratitude

Philippians 4:14 *Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.*

Pastor Tim:

"The church is not in the process of trying to raise dollars; rather we are in the process of raising disciples."

### B. Paul Commended Them for Their Participation

Verse 14b *You shared with my distress or affliction.*

The word shared means to "communicate" or "participate."

Matthew 6:21 *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

II Corinthians 8:5 *And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God*

Three Truths About Giving:

1. The Philippians identified with Paul's need.
2. The Philippians had interest in Paul's need.
3. The Philippians got involved in meeting the need.

### C. Paul Commended Them for Their Graciousness

Philippians 4:15-16 *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.*