

BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

Joy Ride



JUNE 9, 2024 | HUMANILITY: THE JOY OF KNOWING YOU ARE CARED FOR

PHILIPPIANS 4:13-23

I CAN DO ALL THIS THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH. **YET IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO SHARE IN MY TROUBLES.** MOREOVER, AS YOU PHILIPPIANS KNOW, IN THE EARLY DAYS OF YOUR ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE GOSPEL, WHEN I SET OUT FROM MACEDONIA, NOT ONE CHURCH SHARED WITH ME IN THE MATTER OF GIVING AND RECEIVING, EXCEPT YOU ONLY; FOR EVEN WHEN I WAS IN THESSALONICA, YOU SENT ME AID MORE THAN ONCE WHEN I WAS IN NEED. NOT THAT I DESIRE YOUR GIFTS; WHAT I DESIRE IS THAT MORE BE CREDITED TO YOUR ACCOUNT. I HAVE RECEIVED FULL PAYMENT AND HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH. I AM AMPLY SUPPLIED, NOW THAT I HAVE RECEIVED FROM EPAPHRODITUS THE GIFTS YOU SENT. THEY ARE A FRAGRANT OFFERING, AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE, PLEASING TO GOD. AND MY GOD WILL MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS. TO OUR GOD AND FATHER BE GLORY FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN. GREET ALL GOD'S PEOPLE IN CHRIST JESUS. THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE WITH ME SEND GREETINGS. ALL GOD'S PEOPLE HERE SEND YOU GREETINGS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO BELONG TO CAESAR'S HOUSEHOLD.

THE APOSTLE PAUL

- HE HAD BEEN DEEPLY HURT BY THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH.
- THE APOSTLE PAUL SHOWS "HUMANILITY" IN HIS LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS.
- IT IS SOMETIMES EASY TO FORGET THAT PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE ARE NOT SUPERHEROES OR DEITY THEMSELVES.
- SOME SUGGEST THAT IF PAUL TOOK THE MYER'S BRIGGS PERSONALITY TEST, HE WOULD BE AN INTJ (INTROVERTED, INTUITIVE, THINKING, AND JUDGING).

Joy Joy Joy

THE APOSTLE PAUL (CONTINUED)

- TYPICALLY, INTJS ARE INDEPENDENT AND VERY INSIGHTFUL. THEY ARE KNOWN AS VISIONARIES AND ARE STRONG INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ALWAYS STRIVING TO FIND A NEW WAY TO LOOK AT THINGS. INTJS TEND TO BE FUTURE-FOCUSED, ANALYTICAL, AND LOGICAL.

“

I CAN DO ALL THIS THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.
YET IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO SHARE IN MY TROUBLES.

”

THE PHILIPPIANS CARED FOR THE APOSTLE PAUL

- NOT UNLIKE THE PHILIPPIANS, MESA CHURCH MADE SUPPORTING MISSIONARIES A PRIORITY
 - PRIORITIZING MISSIONARIES (THE BOARD MEETING ABOUT PRIORITIZING BILLS)
 - GIVING RETIRED MISSIONARIES A RAISE (GOD'S WORK IS NOT CONSTRAINED BY TIME)
 - MISSIONARIES LOVE MESA CHURCH

MESA CHURCH, YOU'RE IN MY HEART, YOUR IN MY SOUL BECAUSE YOU CARE FOR ME

- IN APRIL, 1989 LISA AND I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF JOINING MESA CHURCH
 - WHEN I WAS THE YOUTH MINISTER, YOU FUNDED EVERY IDEA I HAD
 - YOU TOOK A CAN CHANCE ON ME AND MADE ME EXECUTIVE PASTOR
 - YOU INVESTED IN MY CONTINUING EDUCATION
 - I LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY YEAR I WAS PRIVILEGED TO LEAD WITH YOU
 - YOU CARE FOR MY FAMILY (LISA, CHASE, CHANCE, CHANDLER, AND CHARLI)



Mesa Church, You're In My Heart, Your In My Soul
Because I Cared For You

- 2001, I reluctantly said goodbye to Mesa Church
 - Since I can speak freely now, Bobbi, Jean, Johanna, Florence, Lynette, Lynell and the Sharon(s) were the secret to our success. I just did my best to take credit for their work.
 - In ministry, there is always someone who has gone before you to pave the way, Wayne Tesch did that. It was his God inspired genius that created the caring environment Mesa Church is.
 - I loved strategizing, staff meetings, board meetings, and being disruptive.
 - What I remember and cherish are hospital visits, baby dedications, and the like.



CHURCH TRENDS THAT TROUBLE ME

- Specialization: Age Appropriated Groups
- Time and Context for Discipleship (Church Growth Over People Growth)
- Perceived Relevance of Church

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

The True Cost of the Churchgoing Bust

Many Americans seem to have found no alternative method to build a sense of community.

DEREK THOMPSON
APRIL 3, 2024



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“AS AN AGNOSTIC, I HAVE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE THINKING ABOUT THE DECLINE OF FAITH IN AMERICA IN MOSTLY POSITIVE TERMS. ORGANIZED RELIGION SEEMED, TO ME, BESET BY SCANDAL AND ENTANGLED IN NOXIOUS POLITICS. SO, I THOUGHT, WHAT IS THERE REALLY TO MOURN? ONLY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE I COME AROUND TO A DIFFERENT VIEW. MAYBE RELIGION, FOR ALL OF ITS FAULTS, WORKS A BIT LIKE A RETAINING WALL TO HOLD BACK THE DESTABILIZING PRESSURE OF AMERICAN HYPER-INDIVIDUALISM, WHICH THREATENS TO SWELL AND SPILL OVER IN ITS ABSENCE.”
– DEREK THOMPSON, THE ATLANTIC

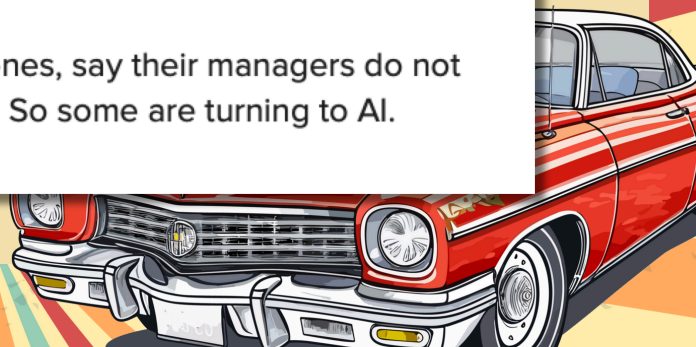
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FEATURE

Young Employees Not Getting Career Guidance

Many workers, particularly younger ones, say their managers do not provide the career advice they need. So some are turning to AI.

April 5, 2024 | [Kathy Gurchiek](#)



“Employees are craving career guidance, but they don't know where to turn. While many workers seek mentoring opportunities and advice from their managers, they say it is often inadequate or nonexistent. New research conducted with HR leaders and U.S. employees finds that Generation Z, in particular, is turning instead to generative artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT as an alternative.”
 - Kathy Gurchiek, SHRM

“COMPARISON IS THE THIEF OF JOY.” - TEDDY ROOSEVELT



YET IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO SHARE IN MY TROUBLES.

November 2023

January 1, 2019



Chandler

February 2020



Lisa Diagnosed with breast cancer.

May 2023



Liver Failure
Letting people help me
Existential anxiety
My prayer



"I thought you would never see me play again."

Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

THANK YOU FOR CARING!

