

# Paul: Mission and Message

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Philippians 3: 13. 14.



“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”  
Philippiens 3: 13. 14



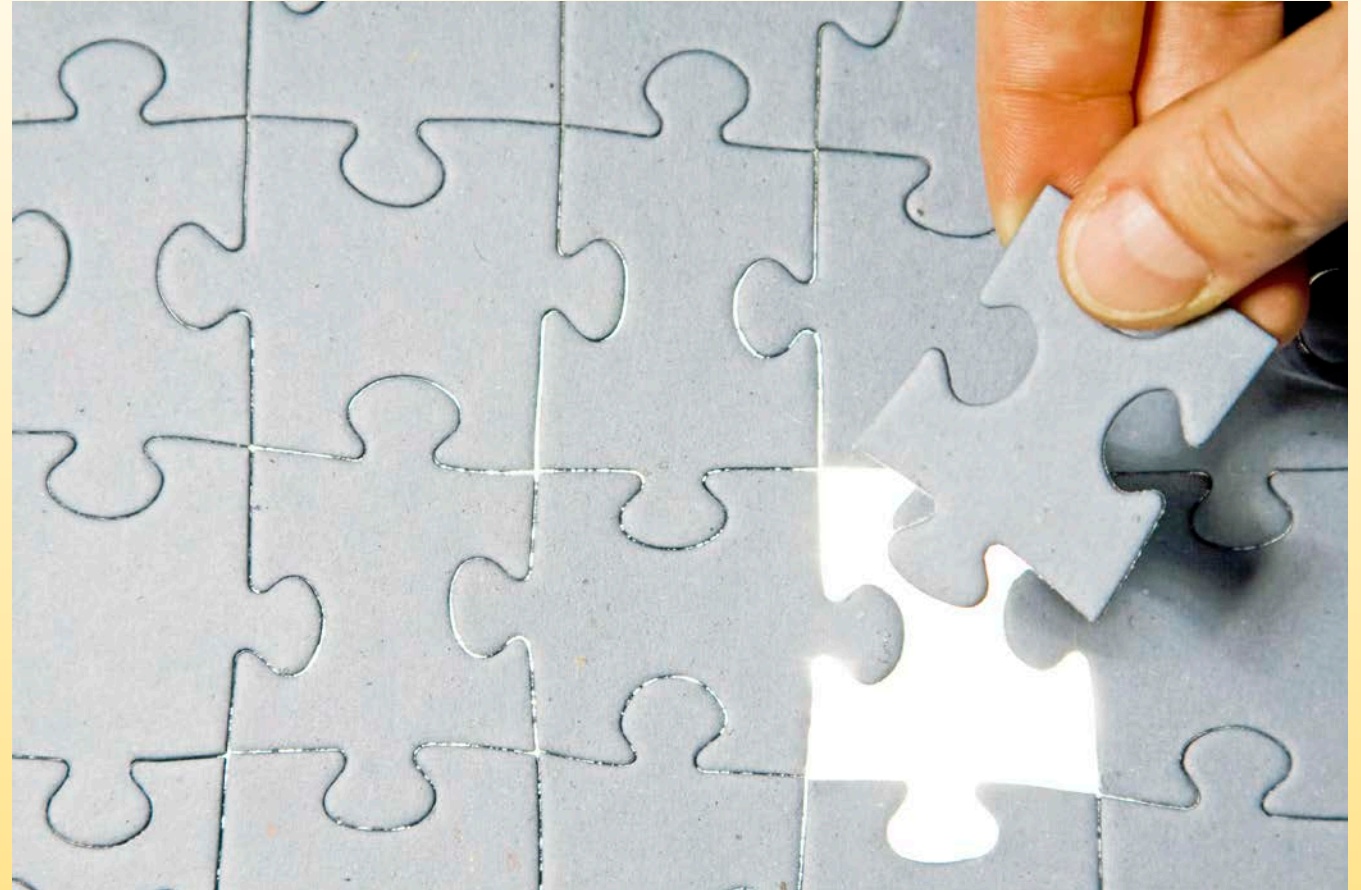
# I. Introduction

The apostle Paul knew very well the magnitude of his mission. His love for God pushed him to put the eternal kingdom of glory in the first place and to do everything possible in order to invite each and everyone to be part of God's plan for human happiness.



“When we put God first,  
all other things fall into  
their proper place or drop  
out of our lives. Our love  
of the Lord will govern the  
claims for our affection,  
the demands on our time,  
the interests we pursue,  
and the order of our  
priorities.”

Ezra Taft Benson





“Jesus is interested in a relationship with you, not a 45 minute date every Sunday morning. Make Him first in your life.”

Joyce Meyer



"Put God first in your life. Everything that you think you see in me, everything that I've accomplished, everything that you think I have – and I have a few things – everything I have is by the grace of God... It's a gift. I've kept God in my life and it's kept me humble. I didn't always stick with him, but he always stuck with me. So stick with him in everything you do."

Denzel Washington



"The more you make God  
a priority, the more you  
become a priority to Him."  
DeAndre Carswell



"If you can't give as much  
as you want and save as  
much as you want,  
something's not right. Put  
God first and watch what  
happens."  
Barry Cameron





“Yet God says the only way you’re ever going to find yourself is by forgetting yourself and focusing on God. Then you’ll not only figure out God; you’ll also figure out you. That’s what it means to live like Jesus.”

Rick Warren



“Seek the kingdom of God first. Singly aim at this, that God, reigning in your heart, may fill it with the righteousness above described. And indeed whosoever seeks this first, will soon come to seek this only.”

John Wesley



# II. Context



## INTRODUCTION

A. 1: 1 – 2                      Presentation. Grace and Peace

## SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

I. 1: 3 – 11                      Thanksgiving and Prayer. In my chains.

II. 1: 12 – 26                      Bold to speak the word without fear. My chains are in Christ. (13, 14, 16)

III. 1: 27 – 30                      To believe in Him and to suffer for Him

IV. 2: 1 – 11                      The same mind as Christ (suffering on the cross)

V. 2: 12 – 18                      Work out your salvation with fear and trembling (SACRIFICE)

D. 2: 19 – 24                      Timothy

E. 2: 25 – 30                      Epaphroditus

## RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

I. 3: 1 – 11                      Paul's experience: fellowship of His suffering

II. 3: 12 – 16                      UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS

III. 3: 17 – 21                      Let us have this mind

IV. 4: 1 – 9                      Invitation for the Reconciliation

V. 4: 10 – 20                      Your SACRIFICE. Doxology

## CONCLUSION

A. 4: 21 – 23                      Greetings. Grace.



III. The mission of the apostle Paul was accomplished through his focus on Jesus Christ



# 1. The disciples don't envision the option of the self-sufficiency

"Brethren, I do not count  
myself to have apprehended"



“Dedication is writing your name on the bottom of a blank sheet of paper and handling it to the Lord for Him to fill in”  
Rick Renner

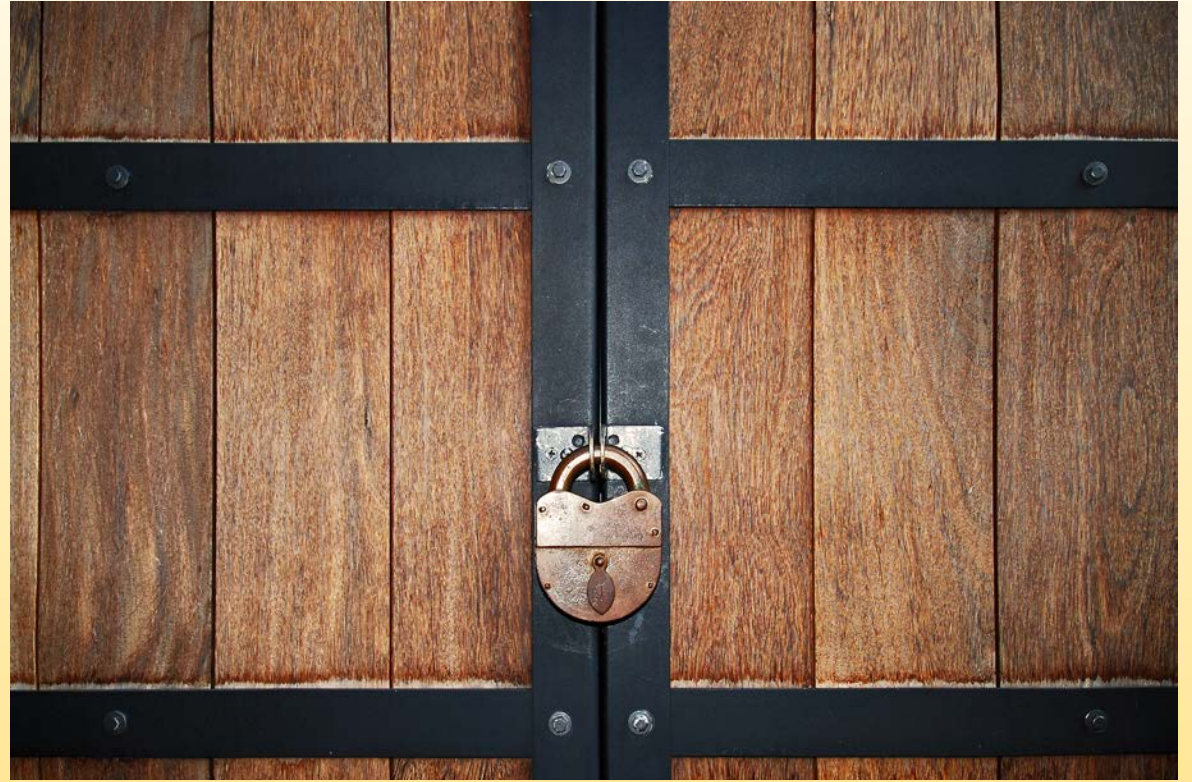


“I want to cultivate a deep sense of gratitude, of belonging, of enough, even while I’m longing for something more. The longing and the gratitude, both. I’m practicing believing that God knows more than I know, that he sees what I can’t, that he’s weaving a future I can’t even imagine from where I sit this morning.”  
Shauna Niequist





“When God closes a door He does not always open a window. Sometimes He wants you to sit in the quiet darkness while He transforms your fear into trust. How long that takes, is often up to you!”  
William Branks



2. A true disciple of  
Christ should be able  
to focus on essential  
“But one thing I do”



“If you look at the world, you will be distressed. If you look within, you will be depressed. If you look at God, you will be at rest.”  
Corrie Ten Boom



"Most of us spend too much time  
on what is urgent and not enough  
time on what is important."

Stephen R. Covey





"The mark of a great man is one who knows when to set aside the important things in order to accomplish the vital ones."

Brandon Sanderson, *The Alloy of Law*



### 3. The Christians are not prisoners of the past

“Forgetting those things which are  
behind”



“At times it may seem as though you and your past are one. Sometimes we fail to differentiate between what has happened to us and who we are today. If you have a hard time getting beyond that damaging mind-set let me encourage you right now. You are not your past Although you are changed and shaped by past experiences who you were yesterday does not control the person you have the potential to become tomorrow.”

Sue Augustine





"The beautiful journey of  
today can only begin when  
we learn to let go of  
yesterday."  
Steve Maraboli





“Forget what hurt you in the past, but never forget what it taught you. God doesn’t bring you lessons to close your heart. He brings you lessons to open it, by developing compassion, learning to listen, seeking to understand instead of speculating, practicing empathy and developing conflict resolution through communication. If he brought you perfect people, how would you ever learn to spiritually evolve?”

Shannon L. Alder



## 4. The future is better than people think

“And reaching forward to  
those things which are  
ahead”



"The religion of Christ does not obliterate or even weaken a single faculty. It in no way incapacitates you for the enjoyment of any real happiness; it is not designed to lessen your interest in life, or to make you indifferent to the claims of friends and society. It does not mantle the life in sackcloth; it is not expressed in deep-drawn sighs and groans. No, no; those who in everything make God first and last and best, are the happiest people in the world. Smiles and sunshine are not banished from their countenance. Religion does not make the receiver coarse and rough, untidy, and uncourteous; on the contrary, it elevates and ennobles him, refines his taste, sanctifies his judgment, and fits him for the society of heavenly angels and for the home that Jesus has gone to prepare."

Ellen G. White, Messages to Young People, p. 38.

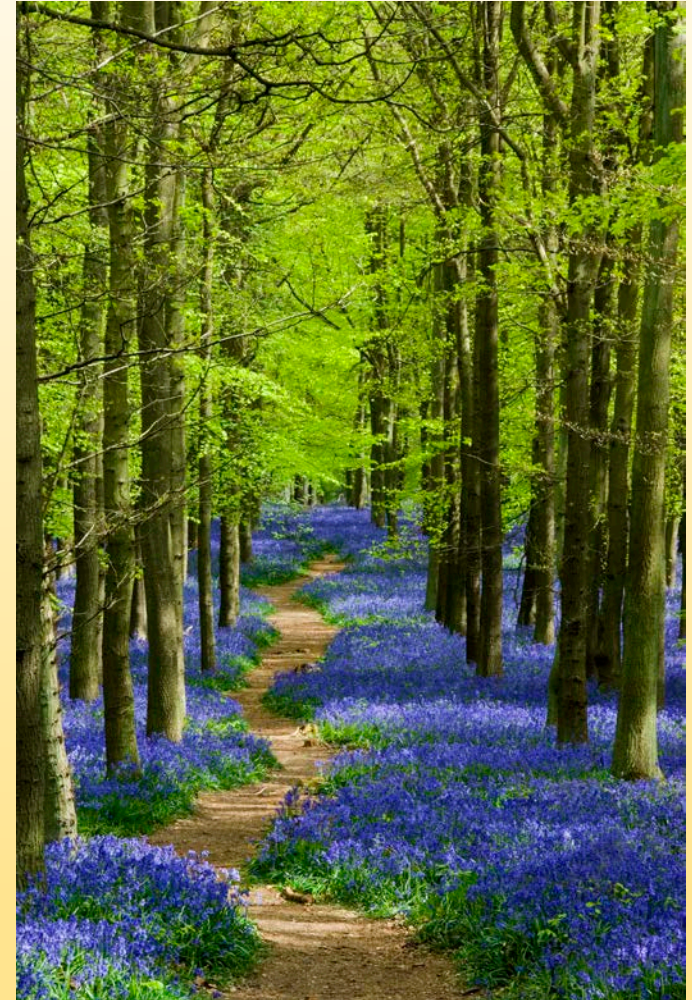
The very essence of leadership is that you have a vision. It's got to be a vision you articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."  
Theodore Hesburgh





"We can chart our future clearly and wisely only when we know the path which has led to the present."

Adlai E. Stevenson



## 5. Pressing On

“I press toward the goal”

“A man will accomplish little who allows his mind to be distracted by a multiplicity of objects. A Christian will accomplish nothing who has not a single great aim and purpose of soul. That purpose should be to secure the prize, and to renounce everything that would be in the way to its attainment. Let us then so live that we may be able to say, that there is one great object which we always have in view, and that we mean to avoid everything which would interfere with that.”

Barna

"Press on. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are effective."

Ray Kroc



“Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently.”

Maya Angelou

6. The upward calling  
of God is the ultimate  
reference for all  
disciples

"For the prize of the upward  
call of God in Christ Jesus."



"Where your talents and  
the needs of the world  
cross, there lies your  
purpose."  
Aristotle



"The place God calls you to is  
the place where your deep  
gladness and the world's deep  
hunger meet."  
Frederick Buechner





“By listening to God’s voice, we can discover our own identity. Only those who know their vocation can improve our world in a significant way.



# V. Conclusion



“Christians sometimes think they have a hard time and that it is a condescension in them to lay hold of unpopular truth and profess to be Christ’s followers, that the road seems hard and that they have many sacrifices to make, when in reality they make no sacrifice at all. If in reality they are adopted into the family of God, what sacrifice have they made? Their following Christ may have broken some friendship with their world-loving relatives, but look at the exchange—their names written in the Lamb’s book of life, elevated, yes, greatly exalted, to be partakers of salvation, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ to an imperishable inheritance. Even in this life, the Christian has One upon whom to lean for support, who will help him bear all his trials. Yet the sinner has to bear his trials alone. He goes down into the grave suffering remorse under darkness, bound by Satan, for he is his lawful prey... If there is any one who should be continually grateful, it is the follower of Christ. If there is any one who enjoys real happiness, even in this life, it is the faithful Christian.... If we appreciate or have any sense of how dearly our salvation was purchased, anything which we may call sacrifice will sink away into insignificance.”

Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling*, p. 201.

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