

Home Group Helps

Philippians 4:14-23

Joy for the Journey: Being Generous

I. Generosity Praised (v.14-18) – ¹⁴ 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.

II. God Provides (v.19-20) – 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.

III. Greetings of Saints (v.21-22) – 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.

IV. Grace to You (v.23) – ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What are some correct and incorrect assumptions about churches and money?

2. Observation Question(s):

- According to the sermon, what was the difference between the rich young ruler of Matt. 19, and Zacchaeus in Luke 19?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In vs. 14, Paul praises the Philippian church because they, “entered into partnership with me.” The root word (*koinoueo*) is used elsewhere to mean “have fellowship with, be made a partner.” Fellowship means to share something in common with another person in a partnership. The idea is to be a participant with others in a common enterprise.
- How have the Philippians been partners with Paul?
- Paul states, “Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit” (v.17). In what sense does giving money away profit the giver?
- Consider these two related verses:
 - **2 Cor. 9:6** – “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
 - **Matt. 6:19-21** – ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- With those verses in mind, why should we be generous?
- Why should we tithe?
- According to one study, evangelical Christians in America only give 0.57% (less than 1%) of their income to the church even though they agree that tithing is biblical.
- Why do you think Christians are not giving more?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- How have these verses encouraged you to view your money in the way that the Philippian church did? What will taking such a view mean for you practically?

5. Application Question(s):

- If you are not yet tithing, what keeps you from starting this week?

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