

# Philippi, The Giving Church

## Philippians 4:10-23

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**Teaching Aim:** To see each Christian be content in his or her circumstances, knowing that God is at work in their life for His glory. To know that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. To understand God will supply all of our “needs” according to His riches in glory, but not necessarily all of our wants.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)**

#### **Part I: Learning to be content in whatever our circumstances (Phil. 4:10-13)**

1. What can we learn from **verse 10** about the heart of the Philippian church and its desire to contribute towards Paul’s ministry needs? (**See Phil. 4:15-16**) Do you have a heart for missions? If for some reason you desire to serve on the mission field but can not, what are some practical ways you can help those who are already serving on the field?
2. In **verse 11**, Paul speaks about “learning” to be content. What are some ways you have learned to be content in your own life? Have you found your outlook on life has changed with age? To be content means to be “self-sufficient”. How is the world’s understanding of self-sufficiency different from that of the Christian’s? Whose sufficiency is the Christian dependent upon?
3. What does it mean for someone to be “abased” (**vs. 12**)? (See Dictionary) What does it mean to “abound”? In light of our nation’s economic situation, what differences have you noticed between people raised during the Great Depression era and those who are being raised today? How do commercials and commercialism encourage us to accumulate “more things” than we really need? What are some of the dangers of materialism and how does it threaten our Christian values?
4. When Paul says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (**vs. 13**), does he really mean “all things”? What are some activities you would like to do if you could, but physically can't do? Is God’s Word incorrect then when Paul writes “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”? Why or why not? Is Paul’s more accurately saying, “I can do everything God has called me to do in Christ Jesus”? What areas of ministry would

you like to serve in if only you could? What is preventing you from stepping forward in faith?

**Part II: The Philippian's financial generosity is now paying eternal spiritual dividends (Phil. 4:14-17)**

1. How did the Philippians share in Paul's distress while he was in Rome (**vs. 14**)? Was there a connection between the Philippian's financial gift, Paul's house arrest and his inability to work? What was the connection?
2. What is Paul referring to in **verse 15** when he says, "*in the beginning of the gospel*"? (**See Acts 16:12-40**) According to **verse 15**, what made the Philippian church particularly special among the churches Paul ministered to? According to **Galatians 6:6-7**, how should Christians respond to those who work full time at feeding them spiritually? (**See 2 Cor. 8:12; 9:6-8**) Explain how giving with a proper heart benefits both you and those you give to.
3. Paul was accustomed to working with his hands (**1 Cor. 4:12; 2 Thess. 3:8**). Why did Paul need financial help during his stay in Thessalonica? (**See Acts 17:1-9**)
4. In **verse 17**, Paul shares he didn't seek his surprise financial gift from the Church at Philippi, but was very grateful for it. We find in the verse that Paul is even more excited about something else, what is it? (**See Matt. 6:19-20**) How does this principle apply to you today? Have you added any eternal dividends to your spiritual account through your generosity? Why or why not? Who is our heavenly banker?

**Part III: My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:18-23)**

1. According to verse 18a, how did Paul feel after receiving the generous gift from the Philippians? Who delivered this special gift to Paul? (**See vs. 18; 2:25-30**) Has anyone ever blessed you with an unexpected financial gift? If so, how did you feel when you received it? Have you thanked the giver? Have you thanked God for the gift?
2. The Philippians sent their gift to Paul in the hands of Epaphroditus. According to **verse 18b**, who was the offering really given to? (**See Heb. 13:15,16; Rom. 12:1-2**) Was God pleased by this special "offering"?

3. What is God's response to this generous love offering from the Philippians (**vs. 19**)? Does this same principle apply to us today? If so, how? (**See 2 Cor. 9:6**) Share an example of how God has blessed you financially when you have been faithful to Him in tithing. If you haven't tried tithing, what is holding you back? (**See 2 Cor. 8:12; 9:6-7**)
  
4. **Verse 19** is a frequently quoted verse that is often misunderstood. Is God promising everything we want, or is He only promising to provide for what we need? How are our wants and our needs different? What are some of the riches of God's glory that we receive today through faith in Christ? How do we receive these riches on a regular basis? (**See John 15:5**)
  
5. Paul moves toward the conclusion of this incredible book in **verse 20** with a beautiful doxology. What is a "doxology"? (See Dictionary) What is normally thought of today when the word "saint" is used? What is the biblical meaning of the word saint? How does the biblical meaning of the word relate to you? Have you found there is a special bond among believers around the world? (**See vv. 21-22**)
  
6. According to **verse 22**, what incredible fruit came out of Paul's ministry while under house arrest in Rome? Who do you think these individuals might have been?
  
7. Paul begins and ends this book with the grace of God (**1:1-2; 4:23**). Why is God's grace so important to the life of every believer? Discuss some of the ways God's grace has been at work in your own life.
  
8. One of the most exciting things about studying God's Word is learning to live it. A central theme in the Book of Philippians is "JOY". By the grace of God, try to live each day by the acrostic "JOY": J = Jesus first; O = others second; Y = yourself last. How will this kind of living affect you and those you come into contact with?

### **MINER'S CORNER – *Manna to live by!***

- \* As Christians we should learn to be content in Christ no matter what life might bring.
- \* We can do whatever God has called us to do in life through Christ who strengthens us.
- \* When we give financially to the Lord's work, we are actually giving to God. Our "offerings" when done with the right heart accumulate eternal dividends which are applied to our spiritual account. God

Himself is our heavenly banker.

\* God will supply all of our needs, *according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus*", but not necessarily all of our wants.