

YOUR GOD AND YOUR GOLD

TEXT: Phil. 4:10-19

THESIS: To give detailed instructions on biblical giving as recorded in the text.

INTRO.: A. "If money talks as some folks tell, to most it only says 'farewell!'" In fact money speaks volumes about its owners. To the world money says a lot about your status (fancy homes, cars, boats, etc.). To God it tells where your priorities are.

B. The Holy Spirit prompted Paul to write a treatise on the subject of giving which speaks a great deal about money and the child of God. Paul is writing as a missionary/pastor who has been imprisoned to a church he commends for their generosity and their support.

C. It appears at first glance that Paul doesn't appreciate the sacrifice they had made to him and the support they had sent to him. vv. 11,12 But then it becomes clear how truly grateful he was and how honored he was for the support given to him. The passage speaks a great deal concerning the subject of biblical giving.

I. CONCERNED GIVING: v.10a "your care of me hath flourished"

A. Giving and Caring:

1. The word for "care" "is phroneo" and means "to think of" "to be mindful of."

2. Giving to a missionary expresses the thoughtfulness of the giver.

ILLUS.: You only give to what you think highly of. When you give to missions you are saying that it is a priority to you and that you care for those supported by your local church. That's why each individual in the church votes to support certain missionary. That is also why you should take the time to read about each missionary you support as a church.

II. OPPORTUNISTIC GIVING: V.10b *"ye lacked opportunity"*

A. Caring and Sharing:

1. "When opportunity knocks, answer the door!"
2. Instead of giving out of duty, give because of opportunity.
 - a. We need to consider it a joy to have the opportunity to give to worthy missions.
 - b. We can't all go, but we can all pray and give and should when we have opportunity.

ILLUS.: The Philippian believers were poor, but they used every opportunity to support Paul. Just think of their reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ for their concern, care and support of the greatest missionary of all! You too will be glad that you supported worthwhile servants of God at the Judgment Seat. You will meet your giving in glory!

III. MINISTRY-DIRECTED GIVING: V.14 *"ye did communicate with my affliction"*

A. Sharing & Blessing:

1. Paul's "affliction" was the fact that he was suffering great need in prison.
2. These believers "communicated" (gave) to help relieve his affliction.
3. Many missionaries, pastors and servants suffer from the affliction of not being properly supported by local churches and thus have to dilute their ministry towards mundane things and are thus distracted from God's calling.
4. Those individuals and churches which commit themselves to giving and sharing with God's servants become direct blessings to them.

ILLUS.: I have always been fully supported (though sometimes meagerly) in every church I pastored. I never had to work "part time" in the ministry. In fact, I refused to do so, because of God's call. Sometimes we had to do without as a family because of minimal support, but I knew I had to use all of my time to help the ministry prosper. God blessed that decision. And I believe I have always been grateful for the support received.

Since we are now engaged in a "faith ministry" we are doubly grateful for every gift large or small! We feel indebted to each church and/or individual that supports us. That means we will do all we can to continue to be a blessing as long as the Lord sees fit to give us health and opportunity. We try to never fail to express our gratitude.

IV. CONSISTENT GIVING: V. 15,16 *"once and again unto my necessity"*

ILLUS.: Note the word "necessity" here. It almost seems contradictory. In v.11 he said "not that I speak in respect of want..." But he was in a whole world of "want." However he was saying that God had given him contentment and peace regardless of circumstances. But what a blessing their help would be to him at this time!

A. Blessing & Helping:

1. The Philippians were not “on again, off again” supporters, they were consistent.
2. As God blessed and enabled this church they felt compelled to be consistent.
3. Paul was the recipient of great blessings because of their consistency.
4. They had helped his ministry to be successful, and now were helping to relieve his afflictions while he was imprisoned for the Gospel’s sake.
5. In fact, they were the only ones, of the many churches Paul planted and grew, which came to his aid in this difficult time. ***“but ye only”!***

V. SPIRITUALLY BENEFICIAL GIVING: v.17 “to your account”

A. Helping & Receiving:

1. In this sense all our giving to the Lord’s work is somewhat “selfish” when we give unselfishly, i.e., although it helps those to whom we give, the benefit and ultimate blessing is ours.
2. The only fruitless believers are stingy believers.
3. Miserly Christians will be miserable Christians when the books are opened in glory.
 - a. God is the Great Accountant, and he is keeping records of our giving in heaven.

- b. The “gold, silver and precious stones” works at the Judgment Seat may actually include some gold, silver and precious stones, which we have given (or given up) to be a help and blessing to God’s servants.

NOTE: It is interesting that when the Lord spoke of fruit bearing, He listed those who bore 30 fold, 60 fold and 100 fold. If we take that literally, there are no real 0 fold believers, that is, totally fruitless believers! One way you can produce fruit to your account is to give generously.

VI. GENEROUS GIVING: v.18 *"I have all, and abound: I am full"*

A. Receiving by Abounding:

1. Paul received their generous gifts and was able to say “I have all, and abound: I am full.”
2. No doubt their poverty didn’t keep them from their priorities!

ILLUS.: We spend or buy based upon our priorities. Even the poorest folks in America have TV’s, cars, etc. You can visit literal shacks in the U.S. and see TV antenna’s on the roof or cable lines into the shack! When God’s people see missions as a priority, they will not allow their “poverty” to interfere with their priority!

What excuse would these Philippians give had they ignored Paul’s needs? What excuse will the other churches who failed in this respect offer to the Lord?! How about YOU?!

Could you give up a Dunkin Donuts coffee each day, or a candy bar, or a sandwich or fast a whole day from (the expense) of food so you can honor your commitment to missions?!

VII. SACRIFICE GIVING: v. 18 *"a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God"*

A. Abounding & Pleasing:

1. Paul invests the Philippians gifts to Paul with the status of an O.T. sweet-smelling sacrifice.
2. In other words God accepts our gifts to His servants and is pleased with them and then places them in His accounting ledger book for rewards later.

QUES.: How will your giving record fare when you stand before the Lord? Is your giving a “sweet smell” or a stench in God’s nostrils? The choice is yours.

CONCL.: This message has been about **“YOUR GOD AND YOUR GOLD”** or about how God sees the “gold” He entrusts you with and what you do with it. How do you measure up? Is He pleased with your giving or is He upset with your record?

At the Judgment Seat of Christ will He be pleased with your stewardship? Is there any “fruit abounding to your account?”

Paul closes this section of Holy Scripture with a promise to believers who give generously to God’s servants!

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

YOU CAN'T CLAIM IT UNLESS YOU DO IT!

