**(*The Kingdom College*)**

**Faith United Baptist Church**

**Bible Study**

**Philippians Chapter 4:10-19**

**Pastor Peterson**

**THE PEACE OF GOD**

VI. THE APPRECIATION FOR GOOD CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS, 4:10–23

A. Appreciation: For a Church That Revives Its Sacrificial Giving, 4:10–19

1. Their giving was revived & it flourished

***10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.***

2. Their giving was not necessary, but it was appreciated

a. Giving is not necessary because God teaches contentment apart from circumstances

***11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.***

***12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.***

b. Giving is not necessary because Christ strengthens us through all

***13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.***

c. Giving is appreciated because it is a work well done

***14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.***

3. Their giving was distinctive: They were the only church that gave & gave consistently

***15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.***

***16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.***

4. Their giving was sacrificial & it was seen & rewarded by God

a. God credited reward to their account

b. God was well-pleased

***17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.***

***18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.***

c. God promised to supply all their need

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

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DIVISION VI

THE APPRECIATION FOR GOOD CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS, 4:10–23

A. Appreciation: For a Church That Revives Its Sacrificial Giving, 4:10–19

(4:10–19) Introduction: this passage deals with stewardship, in particular the giving of money to meet the needs of ministers and missions or the spread of the gospel to the world. Remember: Paul is in prison facing the false charge of insurrection against the government. He is facing the death penalty if convicted. The Philippians had heard about his plight, and they had heard how Paul was standing fast and continuing to preach the gospel to everyone who visited him. The church was stirred to do two things: to take up a love offering and to send a man, Epaphroditus, to minister to Paul’s needs. (See outline and notes—Ph. 2:25–30 for more discussion.)

This passage is Paul’s appreciation for a church that is stirred to revive its interest in missions—stirred to begin giving once again to the support of God’s ministers worldwide.

1. Their giving was revived (v. 10).

2. Their giving was not necessary, but it was appreciated (vv. 11–14).

3. Their giving was distinctive: they were the only church that gave and they gave consistently (vv. 15–16).

4. Their giving was sacrificial and it was seen and rewarded by God (vv. 17–19).

**1 (4:10) Stewardship—Giving:** the church revived its giving and its giving flourished. Note the words flourished again (anethalete): it means to revive again. It is the picture of plants and flowers sprouting, shooting up, and blossoming again. The key word is again. When the church had been founded, the believers had supported Paul and his mission work on a regular basis. But for some reason they had dropped their mission support. That had probably been over ten to twelve years before (Strauss). Why they had stopped sending support to Paul is not known. However, the point to see is the glorious revival of mission support that took place in the church. They picked up the support of Paul once again, and their giving flourished and blossomed anew. The joy and rejoicing of Paul’s heart can just be imagined. He says, “I rejoiced in the Lord greatly.”

**Thought 1.** Why had the church dropped its mission support of Paul? As stated, the reason is not known. In his gracious and kind way, Paul just passes over the issue by saying that he knew they cared for him, but they had just lacked opportunity to support him. Was their lack of support …

• legitimate: that is, due to persecution or poverty?

• illegitimate: that is, due to neglect and unconcern for the spread of the gospel and missions worldwide?

Being honest about the matter, it is difficult to conceive of a legitimate reason for dropping mission support. It is especially difficult to see a reason that would last as long as the ten to twelve years that the Philippian church had failed to support Paul. Whether legitimate or not, we all need to search our hearts about our own personal support of God’s ministers and missions worldwide.

⇒ The gospel must be supported.

⇒ The gospel must be carried worldwide.

⇒ The need of the hour is for churches to awaken to the worldwide mission of Christ.

⇒ Preachers, that is, ministers, missionaries, teachers, and evangelists—all of God’s appointed preachers and teachers—must be supported as they carry the gospel to the world.

Note this: it has been centuries heaped upon centuries since Jesus Christ came to die for the sins of men and to give them life. Yet, look at how little has been done—at how many have still not heard or believed.

⇒ Where are the laborers to carry the message? Where are those who actually pray for laborers as He instructed? Look at how many stay at home and then look at the few out in the communities and fields of the world ministering and witnessing to the lost. Is this God’s method? His will? Thought and honesty give us the answer. The problem is not that we don’t know the truth. We know the truth: we know that we are to go. The problem is that we do not go. We are just unwilling to commit ourselves to go. We are unwilling to leave the comfort and security of our homes and offices, jobs and families to go into the communities and nations of the world.

The need of the hour is for laborers—laborers who will do exactly what Christ commanded: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mk. 16:15). And if we cannot go, then we must commit ourselves to support those who are willing to go!

**“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few” (Mt. 9:37).**

**“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest” (Lu. 10:2).**

**“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple” (Lu. 14:33).**

**“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together” (Jn. 4:35–36).**

**2 (4:11–14) Stewardship—Ministers—Provision:** the church’s giving was not necessary, but it was appreciated. Very simply, what this means is that God will take care of His dear servant even if churches do not adequately care for him. Down through the centuries most churches have not adequately cared for their ministers. This has been part of the sufferings most ministers have to bear in order to carry the gospel forth to a world reeling in desperate need. Yet, God’s dear servants have gone forth despite whatever suffering they have had to bear. Note three significant points.

a. Giving is not necessary because God teaches His servants to be content, no matter the circumstances (vv. 11–12). The word content (autarkeia) means to be self-sufficient; to be completely detached from circumstances. Note the word “learned.” It was a learning experience. Paul had to learn to conquer circumstances and not to let circumstances worry him. But note: he had learned contentment. He says three descriptive things:

⇒ that he knew how to be abased (to live humbly with little) and how to abound (to live with plenty and prosperity).

⇒ that he knew the secret to facing every situation, whether being full or going hungry.

⇒ that he knew how to abound (live in plenty) and how to suffer need.

What was the secret Paul had learned? It is the next point.

**“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content” (Ph. 4:11).**

**“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition” (1 Ti. 6:6–10).**

**“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (He. 13:5).**

b. Giving is not necessary because the minister can do all things through Christ who strengthens him (v. 13). Note the verse:

**“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Ph. 4:13).**

God’s servant (minister) can be content in all circumstances no matter how severe they are—through Christ—but he cannot be content in any circumstance apart from Christ. Note exactly what the verse says:

⇒ “I can … through Christ”

⇒ “Christ who strengthens me”

Christ does not do everything for the believer; neither does the believer do everything for himself. Both Christ and the believer have a part in conquering circumstances. The believer declares, “I can,” and he gets up and faces the circumstances head on. It is then that Christ steps in and strengthens the believer. Christ infuses strength into the believer while the believer is tackling the problem.

Facing reality, there is no need for strength unless the believer is facing and struggling against the circumstance.

⇒ The believer does not need extra strength to arise and face the circumstance. Any believer, no matter who he is, has the strength himself to arise and face any circumstance that confronts him.

⇒ The believer does not even need strength to begin struggling to conquer and solve the circumstance. He has he strength himself to fight against the circumstance that confronts him.

It is only when the believer has exhausted what he can do that a special infusion of the strength of Christ is needed. Christ steps in when our strength is no longer sufficient. It is then that He is able to demonstrate His wonderful love and care for His dear servant. Note something else as well: all praise and glory is then due Christ and not man. Giving is not necessary; God will provide and care for His dear servant.

**“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me, Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Co. 12:9–10).**

**“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Ro. 8:37).**

**“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (2 Co. 9:8).**

**“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man” (Ep. 3:16).**

**“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Ph. 4:13).**

**“So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (He. 13:6).**

**“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him” (Ps. 28:7).**

**“But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God” (Ps. 40:17).**

**“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness” (Is. 41:10).**

c. However, giving is needed, and it is work well done (v. 14). The minister needs daily provision and the gospel needs to be supported so that it can be carried around the world. Money and support are greatly needed. They are not necessary; God can take care of His dear servants and the gospel with or without any church. But His will is for every single church to become involved in supporting His servants and worldwide missions. God can do the job without us; God can bypass us and put us on the shelf just like a useless book. But He wants His people to give and give generously. When they do, they perform a work that is well done, that is commendable and noble.

**“I have showed you all things how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Ac. 20:35).**

**“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Ga. 6:9–10).**

**3 (4:15–16) Stewardship—Minister—Missions:** the church’s giving was distinctive—they were the only church that gave and they gave consistently. This is a point that desperately needs to be heeded by churches everywhere. When the Philippian church was founded, it underwrote the ministry of Paul and it was consistent in its support. But note: it was the only church that was supporting Paul. The unfaithfulness of the other churches cut Paul’s heart. This is clear from his words that no church supported him—none except the Philippian church.

It was while he was in Thessalonica that the Philippians had been consistent in their mission support. And how he had needed their support in Thessalonica, for it was there that he had faced severe persecution (see Acts 17:1f).

**Thought 1.** Imagine! Just one church supporting Paul and his mission to the world! And that church was a church that had just been founded. Two questions desperately need to be asked by all of us.

(1) What are we doing for the Pauls and missions of today?

(2) Have we made a commitment to support any minister or mission and backed off the commitment?

**“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 19:23).**

**“And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful” (Mk. 4:19).**

**“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Ti. 6:7).**

**“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition” (1 Ti. 6:9).**

**“For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others” (Ps. 49:10).**

**“Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven” (Pr. 23:5).**

**“For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?” (Pr. 27:24).**

**“As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool” (Je. 17:11).**

**4 (4:17–19) Stewardship—Mission**: the church’s giving was sacrificial, and it was seen and rewarded by God. The gift cost the Philippian church. They were a church that gave, not just a percentage (so to speak) but sacrificially. This is seen in two points. Their gift is said to be a definite sacrifice, acceptable and well pleasing to God. Their gift is also said to have created a need among themselves. But Paul answers them, “God shall supply all your needs.…” (v. 19). Note three points.

a. God saw who sacrificially gave to support Paul and He deposited a reward to their account (v. 17). This was what Paul desired in giving: not a gift for himself, but a reward for the giver. Paul knew that God saw and rewarded the believers who gave sacrificially; therefore, Paul desired believers to give and to give sacrificially.

**“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal” (Mt. 6:20).**

**“Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me” (Mt. 19:21).**

**“Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth” (Lu. 12:33).**

**“Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting” (Lu. 18:30).**

b. God was well pleased with the giving of the Philippians (v. 18). Paul compares it to an Old Testament sacrifice which a person offered up to God. The person’s sacrificial commitment to God was just like the pleasant smell of the animal sacrifice: it was acceptable. The sacrificial commitment was a sweet or pleasant smell to God. So it was and is with sacrificial giving. The commitment of the gift is acceptable to God just like the pleasant smell of an animal sacrifice.

**“But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God” (Ph. 4:18).**

**“But to do good and to communicate [give] forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (He. 13:16).**

**“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, and holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Pe. 2:5).**

c. God promised to supply all the needs of His dear people (v. 19). This is one the great promises of Scripture: “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Ph. 4:19).

1) There is the great Provider: God Himself. No matter what the need is, the need is not greater than God. God can and will meet the need. But note the pronoun “my.” It is “my God” who shall provide for the needs. A person has to make sure …

• that the God who can really provide for needs is his God

• that he knows God personally—well enough that he can trust and depend upon God to meet his need

2) There is the great assurance of provision: “my God shall supply.” There is no question about the provision being supplied. God is God; therefore, He is able to provide and He will supply whatever provision His dear child needs.

3) There is the great provision: “all your needs.” This promise does not refer only to the physical needs for food, clothing, and shelter. It refers to mental, emotional, social, and spiritual needs. It refers to any need that arises, engulfs, or confronts the believer. No need will be omitted or overlooked. No need is too big or too little. No need is unimportant—not to God, not if His dear child is really experiencing the need.

⇒ There may be a lesson for the believer to learn before the need can be met, some lesson such as more trust, endurance, love, joy, peace, gentleness, meekness, or control.

⇒ There may be some testimony that the believer needs to share as to the strength of Christ which carries us through trials.

But no matter what the trial or need is, God will supply all our needs.

4) There is the great resource: “according to His riches in glory.” Take all the riches and wealth, glory and majesty of heaven—it is all available to meet the needs of God’s dear people. There is no limit—not even a fraction—to the great resources at God’s disposal. God can provide for any need.

5) There is the great Mediator: “By Christ Jesus.” This is critical to note, for God does nothing apart from Christ. No person can approach God without coming to Him through Christ Jesus. This is the key to having our needs met: surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ, and asking God to meet our needs in Him. We must always remember that God has only one child: the Lord Jesus Christ. God loves Christ so much that He will do anything for the person who honors Christ by sacrificially giving to share the glorious news about Him.

**“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (2 Co. 9:8).**

**“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Lu. 6:38).**

**“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ep. 3:20).**

**“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Ph. 4:19).**

**“And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Ti. 1:14).**

**“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Ti. 4:8).**

**“For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pe. 1:11).**

**“Fear thou not; For I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness” (Is. 41:10).**