

Giving--necessary force for advance of gospel--a real way to be in the game; an opportunity for giving worship and receiving blessing; an excellent barometer of the heart.

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. **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

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.

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Where are we headed today? (primarily verses 14-20)

- **Talk about the Philippians and their giving.**
- **Talk about the theory of giving--Philippians and others.**
- **Talk about us.**

The Philippians

- **Philippians 1:3-5** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.
- **Philippians 4:10** I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

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.

- Church of Philippi is FUNDING THE EFFORT. They are EQUALLY INVOLVED.
- This church stood out to Paul. Gospel was 2 way w/ them.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

- Always something bigger going on when we are talking about giving.

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. **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

- "You guys have given well. I'm blessed and well taken care of. Thank you!"

- More importantly--the gifts they have given--their support of the churches--are a sacred worship offering to God. They have pleased not just Paul, but God! Giving to God!
- [Psalm 112:5](#) Good will come to those who are generous

Theory of Giving

- Giving is a lifestyle of worship, made up by acts of worship.
- Giving is about the heart.
 - [2 Corinthians 8:1-5](#) We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, **their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.** For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us
- Giving is something to excel in. Not an afterthought.
 - [2 Corinthians 8:7](#) But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

Practice of Giving (Because Theoretical givers don't change the world!)

- [James 2:14-16](#) What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?
- So What IS good practice??
 - Give in a disciplined manner.
 - Disciplined, regular giving. 1 Corinthians 16:2--set aside weekly.
 - Get in a routine. Shoot for a sacrificial percentage. First, not last. Church.
 - Give above and beyond--special offerings.
 - Spontaneous. Missionaries, disaster relief, someone needs a car, food. Building fund.

What's my heart? (Same as Paul's)

- Grow in this area. Excel in this area.
- Store treasure--in the right place.
- Get into regular, disciplined giving.
- Give sacrificial gifts and offerings above your regular giving.
- Give generously, sacrificially, with JOY.
- Give ourselves "first to the Lord."