



PHILIPPIANS OVERVIEW

Stuck in house arrest, Paul writes to encourage the Philippian church to live as citizens worthy of the Gospel in the midst of their suffering. Paul's letter to the Philippians is so apt for us today. We need his words that can enable us, in light of and because of Christ Jesus, to rejoice in the midst of suffering, trial and loss. Now is the time to be a united church on mission together, willing to lose it all for Christ's fame and our gain.

PART 11: WHAT A DOLLAR CAN DO

Read the text: Philippians 4:10-20

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. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 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. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 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. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

In today's passage, Paul closes his letter to the Philippian church rejoicing for their generosity and financial support of him while in prison. His focus is not on his own needs being met, because he had learned to trust in God to provide and be content in every circumstance. Instead, his focus was to rejoice in the Philippians' generosity because of what it revealed about them. He rejoiced because of their partnership in the Gospel, because it enabled him to preach the Gospel, and because their gift was an act of praise to God. Their gift demonstrated God was at work in the Philippians and Paul wanted to rejoice over this work and remind them that God would ultimately supply everything they needed.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. According to Paul, what is the secret to contentment in every circumstance? When you reflect on your life right now, are you experiencing this kind of contentment?
2. Pastor Tim shared that generosity with our treasure creates partnership in the Gospel and enables preachers of the Gospel. What partnerships has God given you and what preachers are you enabling through your generosity (it may help to see "preachers" as broader than those who speak on a Sunday morning)?
3. Pastor Tim also shared that generosity with our treasure produces praise for the Gospel. The Philippians' gift was

described as a “fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.” Our gifts of treasure are acts of worship to God. On the other hand, our greed, or inability to be generous, reveals a different kind of worship. It may reveal that we don’t really believe Jesus is all-satisfying and have looked to the gods of pleasure or control to satisfy us. When you think about your own life and how you view and use money, what may your generosity with your treasure reveal about who or what you are worshipping? Take time to reflect and be honest with each other.

4. What are tangible ways God is calling you to change how you view and use the treasure He has given you? Take time to share with each other tangible steps you want to take and then pray for God’s help and empowerment.