

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4:14-23

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“The Power of Giving” – Part 2

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

“The Power of Giving”

Philippians 4:15-23

1.) Puts us **WHERE** the action is: vs. 14-16

14 Nevertheless you have **done well** that you shared in my distress. **15** Now you Philippians know also that **in the beginning of the gospel**, when I departed from Macedonia, no church **shared** with me concerning **giving** and **receiving** but you only.

16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

2.) Puts us **THERE** before His throne: vs. 17-19

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the **fruit** that **abounds** to your **account**.

18 Indeed I have **all** and **abound**. I am **full**, having **received** from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a **sweet-smelling aroma**, an **acceptable sacrifice**, **well pleasing** to God. **19** And my God shall **supply** all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

3.) Puts us **NEAR** to one another: vs. 20-23

20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. **21 Greet** every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me **greet** you. **22** All the saints **greet** you, but especially those who are of **Caesar’s household**. **23** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

It’s possible that some of you may find Paul’s words here to be offensive. Offensive because, he knows no separation between sacred and secular. To Paul everything is sacred because his heart was in the right place before God. Paul dedicated the secular things of life to God, making them sacred!

He is not only bold about this issue of giving and receiving, but the words he uses are lifted from the banking world of his day. Paul does an amazing thing, he links together the verbiage of Old Testament worship and sacrifice to the use of common everyday money. To him, “The One” is simply a tool to accomplish “The Other”.

The Power of Giving

1.) Puts us WHERE the action is: vs. 14-16

1a.) It grants us immediate access: vs. 15

1b.) It enables us to be faithful: vs. 16

The Power of Giving

2.) Puts us there before His throne: vs. 17-19

2a.) We each have an accounting: vs. 17

17 (Not that I seek the gift,) but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

“Not that I seek the gift,”

This is what’s known as a **parenthetical insert**, meaning don't misunderstand me while I’m talking about money and gifts and physical blessings – I don't need them.

Abounds grk: pleonazo, pleh-on-ad´-zo;

to make and to make more, to have and to increase. To add and to keep on adding. To abound then to go on to super-abounding.

17b ...but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

**How do you Take Care of, Manage over, Maintain, the Stuff you have?
(Stewardship Matters to God)**

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has **received a gift**, minister it to one another, as good **stewards** of the manifold grace of God.

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first fruits of all your increase;
10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

It’s been well said that,

“The only money that we will ever see again is that which has been given away.”

Applicable Illustration:

Many of us have been to the Dead Sea in the south of Israel. The weird thing is, it ought not to be Dead. The life giving waters of the Jordan River flow down into it, but the Sea is Dead because it has no outlet. It only take in – it never gives out.

The Power of Giving Literally Puts Us There Before His Throne We each have an **accounting.**

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

“You never have to advertise a fire. Everyone comes running when there’s a fire. Likewise, if your church is on fire, you will not have to advertise it. The community will already know it.”

- Leonard Ravenhill

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. **10** According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. **11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. **14** If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Luke 12:21 (-)

“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

“But I can’t afford to give God my money”. The truth is sir, “you can’t afford not to give Him your money”.

Malachi 3:8-10

“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me. Even this whole nation. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And **TRY** Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

But Pastor Jack, I just don't see this in action today.

Luke 16:10

He who is faithful (*trustworthy*) in what is least (*el-kia-is-tos, a grain of sand, rice or seed*) is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, (*the money of this world*) who will commit to your trust the true riches?

I'm Always Amazed with God's Economics **He takes the temporal things of this world and transforms them into tools and mortar and iron and steel for His eternal kingdom**

When we worship,

What's really going on anyway?

What about when we witness to others,

What's really going on anyway?

When we pray,

What's really going on anyway?

When we give,

What's really going on anyway?

The Power of Giving **Puts Us There Before His Throne**

2b.) We each make our own **deposits**: vs. 18

18 Indeed I have **all** and **abound**. I am **full**, having **received** from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, (1) a **sweet-smelling aroma**, (2) an **acceptable sacrifice**, (3) **well pleasing** to God.

Abound grk: perisseuo,

that which super-abounds in quantity and/or quality. The then an excess of, more than what can be used to care for one's self and those he provides for.

What we've been gifted with, we're to be gifting out.

"We each are making our own deposits".

Matthew 6:19-21 (+)

"Do not **lay up** (make deposits) for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **20** but **lay up** (make deposits) for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your **treasure** is (deposits), there your heart will be also.

Now Paul draws from his knowledge of the Old Testament and uses it to make a New Testament Point:

Verse 18b

(1) ...a **sweet-smelling aroma**,

The imagery is that of the Temple and the Acts of Worship.

God always asks His people to sacrifice their best for Him, so because the fat of animals was considered the best, He asked them to sacrifice it.

How Do We

“Make our own heavenly deposits?”

Verse 15

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

Answer – by making practical deposits, by **involvement!!!**

Verse 18c

Involvement becomes (2) ...an **acceptable sacrifice**,
(This means that the attitude of the offering is real and sincere and heart-felt.)

Verse 18d

(3) ...**well pleasing** to God.
(God sees it. God feels it. God knows all about it.)

The word usages here in verse 18 are words carefully spoken by Paul. By design, he uses the words “acceptable” and “well pleasing”.

Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present** your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, **acceptable** to God, which is your **reasonable service**. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Here's A Practical Example of Making a Practical Deposit:

John 6:1-12

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. **2** Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. **3** And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. **4** Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. **5** Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, **“Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”** **6** But this He said to **test** him, for He Himself knew what He would do. **7** Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.” **8**

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, **9** "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" **10** Then Jesus said, "**Make the people sit down.**" Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. **11** And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks **He** distributed them to the **disciples**, and the disciples to **those** sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "**Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.**"

Ephesians 5:1

Therefore be imitators (copy-cats) of God as dear children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and has given Himself for us, an offering (acceptable) and a sacrifice to God for a **sweet-smelling aroma**.

The Power of Giving Puts Us There Before His Throne

2c.) We each have been given a **measure**: vs. 19

And **MY God** shall **supply** all **YOUR need**
according to (drawing from the bank of Jesus) His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

There is a condition to this promise.

The promise of God **limitlessly** supplying all your need is **limited** to those who render themselves in need because of their generosity toward others.

"If you give away what you do not need, it isn't giving."

Mother Teresa.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

The Rule to Investing Our Measure – Multiply It!

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

But this I say: He who **sows sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**, and he who **sows bountifully** will also **reap bountifully**. **7** So let each one give **as he purposes in his heart**, not **grudgingly** or of **necessity**; for God loves a cheerful (hilarious) giver.

The trouble is that too many people are spending money they haven't yet earned for things they don't need to, impress people they don't like.

- Will Rogers

Proverbs 11:24-25 NIV

(1) One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
(2) another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. **25** A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Think of what the Philippians owed Paul. It was through him that they had come to hear of the gospel. The forgiveness of sin, the assurance of heaven, the instruction of the word – He left them a church in Philippi. There was no thank you card too big for such a gift that Paul had given them. Yet He expresses such thanks and praise of a church – that we, 2,000 year later are reading about their investment in his ministry.

“Give according to your income, lest God make your income according to your giving.”

Chaplain of the United States Senate
Peter Marshall,

COME TO JESUS TODAY

The Cross, The Christ, The Call

_____ **End of Study** _____

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