

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

“Giving To The Lord”

Philippians 4:14-23

Revision

1. The Apostolic local church regretfully endured tension and strife (4:1-3). In spite of this, Paul, by inspiration, wrote to the Philippians to be occupied with unfailing joy (4:4), unending moderation (4:5), unruffled peace (4:6, 7), and an unblemished life (4:8, 9).
2. Overlooking the troubles at Philippi, following Paul’s directions, the believers would experience the “peace of God” and the presence of the “God of peace” (4:7, 9).
3. In a remarkable manner, the Apostle demonstrates “peace” in his own dire prison circumstances (4:10-12). Dramatically he affirms that he is endowed with strength in Christ (4:13). Jesus Christ is the key to his triumph right where God placed him.
4. Now he turns to a word of gratitude and praise to God (4:14-19). This final major paragraph focuses on the events which prompted Epaphroditus to visit Paul (cf. 2:25-30; 4:18). Among the comments Paul makes about Epaphroditus, he notes him as a. “A minister” (), denoting a servant who discharged his office at his own expense. He did this for Paul’s “necessities” (). b. One who conveyed “the things . . . from you” ().
5. It is to these “necessities” and “things” which Paul now turns to acknowledge. This is how they are described. As:-

1. APPRECIATED v. 14

a. Action

Despite Paul’s words (vv. 10-13), he does not depreciate the liberality of the Philippians. They did well (). The aorist tense dictates the specific coming of Epaphroditus.

b. Participation

The aorist participle () is more than a contribution; it connotes they joined with him to make his prison experience their very own.

c. Affliction

This term is used of the “Great Tribulation” (cf. Mt. 24:21), hence it refers to huge “distress” ().

2. CONTRIBUTED v. 15

a. Initially

Clearly Paul recalls the beginnings of the Gospel in Macedonia (Acts 17:1-15). At that time, about 10 years before, the believers at Philippi acted in Paul’s behalf.

b. Exclusively

Speaking directly to the Philippians, Paul notes they know that they alone had “fellowship” with Paul regarding contribution. Even Antioch from whence Paul came was remiss (Acts 13:1-4).

c. Financially

That Paul has reference to “money” is patent by the words employed. The prepositional phrase “as concerning” () literally meant “to the account of.” That a monetary transaction is in view is unmistakable from the formula “giving and receiving” (). Make no mistake about it -- the Philippians were liberal in giving.

3. COMMUNICATED vv. 16, 17

a. Repeatedly

The term “for” () is really argumentative not a demonstrative pronoun. It argues for the facts of the previous verse. Philippi sent (aorist tense) repeatedly (“both once and twice”) to supply Paul’s need (the sets the ethical destination of the contribution). Moreover, this was done while Paul was in Thessalonica -- even there!

b. Purposely

To avoid misunderstanding, Paul writes he was not seeking a gift nor was he expecting a repetition of what Epaphroditus had already brought. His purpose: he sought after (verb used twice in one verse --) fruit, that is, spiritual and eternal recompense. This was to abound into their account (same word as in v. 15).

NOTE: God’s servants are not, generally, seeking large allowances or gifts. They must not. But, they are obligated to urge believers to cause their accounts in Glory to abound.

4. RECKONED v. 18

a. Totally

The verb “I have” () is intensive meaning “to have in full.” What he received from Epaphroditus is like a receipt truly paid (cf. Mt. 6:2, 5, 16). Consequently Paul abounds (present tense) and stands full (perfect tense;). Incredible for a man to enjoy in view of his “affliction” (v. 14).

b. Practically

Paul’s “fulness” or “things” from the Philippians is a) sweet smelling odor (cf. Eph. 5:2; Lev. 4:31), b) sacrifice acceptable (cf. Ro. 12:1) and c) satisfying to God (Ro. 12:1).

5. COMPENSATED v. 19

a. By a Provider “My God”

This is not without emphasis. Surely it is an expression of hopeful trust. Thank God for His majestic mightiness.

b. With a Promise “Shall supply”

Here is an assurance of faith. “Supply” is the same verb used above for “full” (v. 18). God can do this. His servant Paul can proclaim the truth by inspiration.

c. For a Problem “All your need”

The noun “need” was used above (v. 16). The exceptional poverty of the Macedonian converts is recorded (2 Cor. 8:2). This is a wide and deep matter.

c. Unto a Praise “According to His riches in glory”

The resources of which Paul speaks are “according to the scale” of the glory of His manifested power. This is at once infinite and exhaustless.

e. In a Person “In Christ”

Whatever comes is embodied in Him and ministered through Him, our blessed Lord. All the blessings and benefits can only be experienced in union with Him.

Review “How” Paul responded to the visit of Epaphroditus is the issue of this paragraph. Paul’s expressions are God’s Word to the Philippians. By extension they teach us to appropriate, accept contributions, believe in communication (fellowship), reckon God’s fullness, and be mindful of His compensation. You just can’t out give God. Amen.