

4/11/99

Philippians 4:10-22

Paul has just exalted of the two women at Philippi to walk in maturity regarding their differences as well as every believer bringing everything to God in prayer.

Each exercising the mind of Christ to think on the things that are good and noble, pleasing the God of peace.

Now he is going to deal with his own finances regarding the gospel which is also a great mark of spiritual maturity for both the giver and the recipient.

4:10-14 **The expression of thanks over their generosity.**

* Some describe this section as a postscript.

4:10 Paul's appreciation.

- 1) Paul understood the priority of thanks was to God.
 - a) He rejoiced in the Lord greatly.
 - 1)) The word rejoiced is in the aorist, Paul rejoiced at the time the gift was presented to him.

2)) This is the epistle of joy, due to the fact that he is in Rome by God's appointment with the mind of Christ and under His provisions.

- b) He knew that it was God who is working through people to do his work.
 - c) He knew people are the mere instruments of God in obedience to His leading, that is why he describes his rejoicing in God "greatly" .
- 2) Paul graciously and clearly clears them of any procrastination or lack of love for him by declaring their lack of opportunity.
- a) Some say that Paul was reproofing them for their tardiness by the phrase "now at last" but the declaration of their lack of opportunity would be contradictory to this interpretation.
 - b) What it does communicate is Paul's greater appreciation of their generosity due to their own hardship and perhaps even difficulty of sending finances to him.
 - c) Paul told the Corinthians all about giving, based on desire, will, opportunity and sacrifice. 1Cor. 8-9
- 3) Paul acknowledges their generosity to him by benevolence time again.

- a) They had sent to him twice before. vs. 15, 16
- b) They had now sent again.
- c) They were of the mind to have Paul always in their minds.
- d) The word care “phroneo” means to direct one’s mind to a thing, be like-minded.
- e) The same word has been used to communicate the believers oneness of mind as a servant. Phil. 2:2, 5; 3:15, 16, 19 the praise to Twelve time in total!
- f) It is used by Paul of his own mind towards the Philippians. Phil. 1:7
- g) Their oneness of mind is described as a beautiful tree or flower blooming by the word flourishing in it’s God given season.

4:11 Paul makes his own heart known in regards to finances.

- 1) Paul makes it perfectly clear that he did not rejoice due to the fact that he had a financial need and it was met.
 - a) Paul was not one who made his own personal needs known, even if he had some.
 - b) How different it is today when so many preachers and Pastors are always making their needs know to all

- and begging, even using guilt and marketing tactics to extract funds from people to support their ministry.
- 2) Paul declared to the Philippians that he had learned in whatever state to be content.
 - a) This was Paul’s personal practice, the pronoun “I” is emphatic. 1Cor. 9
 - b) The word content “autarkees” is a Stoic word which means to be self-sufficient from circumstances based on being frugal and a steward.
 - * He uses this same word in a different form two other times.
 - 1)) And God is able to make all grace abound towards you, that you always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 2Cor. 9:8; “Prov. 11:24”
 - 2)) Godliness with contentment is great gain. 1Tim. 6:6
- c) His self-sufficiency was depended on God alone to be in line with his call and not go beyond it. Phil. 4:13; 2Cor. 3:5
 - 1)) Having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 1Tim. 6:8
 - 2)) Be content with such things as you have. Heb. 13:5

4:12 Paul explains his state of contentment.

- 1) Paul knew by experience how to live with humbly and in prosperity.
 - a) He was acquainted with both extremes.
 - 1)) He was from wealthy family and social level.
 - 2)) He was a tentmaker by trade. Acts 18:3; 20:34; 1Thess. 2:9; 2Thess. 3:8
 - b) He knew how to adjust himself to either case.
- 2) Everywhere and in all things, he had learned to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
 - a) The perfect tense implies that once having been initiated, Paul remained so. Linski
 - b) The word “learned” some say is to initiate into sacred mystery rite of the pagan cults and that Paul is borrowing it, others rejected it.
 - c) Paul’s witness confirms his declaration. 1Cor. 4:11; 2Cor. 6:4-5

4:13 Paul identifies the source of his sufficiency.

- 1) This verse is one of the most abused by Christians by ripping it out of it’s context, to declare their ability to do anything.

- 2) The context is, the sufficiency to do anything that God had called Paul to do or be involved in.
 - a) Revealing that he was doing only what God called him to, in this case to be in prison by appointment.
 - b) Encouraging others to trust God for the measure of faith and sufficiency of God, according to his will, with little or much.
 - 1)) Jesus said, “Apart from me, you can do nothing. Jn. 15:5
 - 2)) Paul told the Romans that we are more than conquerors. Rom. 8:37
 - 3)) Paul boasted in his infirmities that he might be strong, for God’s grace was sufficient. 2Cor. 12:9-10

4:14 Paul confirms his gratitude.

- 1) He was not telling them that he did not need it nor that they shouldn’t of bothered.
- 2) He was not slapping them in the face being ungrateful.
- 3) He was thanking them for the love gift as God directed them to share some of their finances in his distress, calling it excellent and noble.
 - a) The word distress “thlipsis” means a pressing, pressing together, pressure and used throughout the New

Testament for afflictions and tribulations.

- b) Paul used the same word for his own affliction. Phil. 1:16

4:15-20 **The commendation of their commitment.**

4:15 Paul reminds them of their participation from the beginning.

- 1) When Paul departed from Mecedonia, they alone gave financially to Paul. Act 17
 - a) Paul told of the Corinthians that brethren who came from Mecedonia help him financially. 2Cor. 11:9
* Some say it refers to the Philippians but it seems contradicting what Paul is saying here.
 - b) The words giving and receiving are business terms for credits and debits side of a ledger, Paul saw it as a spiritual investment. vs. 17
- 2) No other churches did so.
 - a) Paul was ever so careful lest he be accused of charging for the gospel and the gospel be marred.
 - b) Paul willfully denied support lest any accuse him. 1Cor. 9
 - c) Paul was in Jail due to the advice of the elders at Jerusalem, to an extend,

where was the church at Jerusalem involved, or the Roman church?

4:16 Paul reminds them of a second time they participated.

- 1) They sent a gift to Thessalonica.
- 2) They sent it to meet his necessities.
* Paul was working with this own hands. 1Thess. 2:9; 2Thess. 3:7-9

4:17 Paul reveals his motive in their giving.

- 1) He did not seek the gift.
 - a) He already told them he lived in contentment. vs. 11
 - b) He also told them that he knew by experience to live with little or much. vs. 12
- 2) He sought the fruit that would abound to their account.
 - a) He continuos the metaphor of a tree blossoming by the word “fruit”. vs. 10
 - b) He saw giving as spiritual investment that God would give great returns. Lk. 19:15
* The phrase “abound to your account” are terms used in the money-market of the day. 2Cor. 8

4:18 Paul relates their present gift as being part of his fullness.

- 1) He had receive their gift by the hand of Epaphroditus. Phil. 2:25
* Not to mention the gift of Epaphroditus himself!
- 2) He as a result was overflowing to the brim and continued to be filled to the brim and was so to the very day. The perfect tense
* The expression “I have” means he had received in full and Epaphroditus in fact and abound with accumulated interest, as s a form of receipt.
- 3) He describes that gift in a three-fold manner.
 - 1)) A sweet-smelling aroma.
 - 2)) An acceptable sacrifice.
 - 3)) Well pleasing to God.
* All three identifying the gift in figurative language to the Old Testament system, recognized and honored by God due to the character and love behind it. Eph. 5:2

- 4:19** Paul assures God will meet their needs
- 1) His God would supply all their need.
 - a) All our need, not our greed!
 - b) He speaks from experience and a personal intimate relationship, “my God”.

- c) He is making the connection with those who are participants financially in the gospel, this is the context. Lk. 6:38
* God repays the believer in his giving out of love, not man!
- 2) His assurance is based on the richness of God in glory by Christ Jesus.
 - a) In proportion to God's riches. Eph. 3:20
 - b) In accord with His will and calling. Phil. 4:13

4:20 Paul’s doxology.

- 1) God’s glory is His own eternal possession.
- 2) God’s glory is evident in every need that is met.
- 3) God’s provisions are in view of being our heavenly Father to the needs of His children.

4:21-23 The closing salutation and blessing.

4:21-22 The three-fold greeting.

- 1) Paul sends his greeting or embrace, to every saint in Christ Jesus.
* Our blessings are in Christ alone!
- 2) The brethren that were with Paul sent their greetings.

- 3) All the saints greeted them but particularly those of Caesar's household.
Phil. 1:13; Rom. 16:10-11
- a) By this Paul is exemplifying the unity that he has so diligently both commanded and exhorted in the church of Philippi.
 - b) By this Paul also exemplified the oneness of mind in the ministry of the gospel.

4:23 Paul's benediction.

- 1) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all, the saints is the secret to life.
- 2) His name occurs more than forty times, one time in every three verses.
- 3) He began with grace, he ends in grace.