



August 11, 2019

DIGGING DEEPER

Philippians 4:10-20

The purpose of this document is to help us
take the word beyond our Sunday gathering
and to **think through the practical**
implications of the Scriptures and then to
be intentional about living the word out.

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Content In Christ

Philippians 4:10-13; Proverbs 30:7-9; Galatians 2:20

Questions Worth Asking

In a society that is saturated by the idea of never having enough, Paul's thoughts on contentment are possibly more needed today than ever before. Paul doesn't act like he doesn't have physical needs that must be met to continue living on earth. He has, however, learned the valuable lesson of not longing for more. This wasn't something that Paul always understood. As a young, zealous Jewish hot shot, Paul had an insatiable hunger for more. He learned the secret that would curve his appetite...Christ. In Christ, Paul had the strength to be satisfied no matter the situation or circumstances he found himself in. As a matter of fact, Paul believed he can be as tempered in wealth as he was in poverty by focusing on the one who gives him the strength to serve his purposes (Philippians 2:12-13). Paul lets us know that the secret to being content is trusting in the one whose name you were sent.

1. Why do people look past the presence of the Holy Spirit in their present situation and feel like we need something else (money, position, relationship, etc.) to bring satisfaction?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What are the lessons society teaches us about needs and satisfaction?
- How do you see your life impacted by the lessons learned from a consumer culture?
- How is it that the things we want so quickly morph into feeling like things we can't live without?

2. When was a time in your life that a situation wasn't resolved, but you had a peace because you knew that Christ had it under control?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How has your awareness of the Holy Spirit given you strength to deal with situations or circumstances that would have otherwise been overwhelming?
- What are you actively doing to learn and/or remind yourself that you can do all things through him who strengthens you?
- How does God's faithfulness in your past circumstances give you peace that he will take you through present situations that seem uncertain?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you be content with what your Savior supplies...

1. Make a list of the things you currently have that you really *NEED* (Matthew 6:25) to live.
2. Make a list of all the other things that you have.
3. Take time each day this week (in the morning and the evening) to thank God for the provision of the things on both list.

21st Century Sacrifice

Philippians 4:14-18; Leviticus 1-4,6; Leviticus 26; Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Questions Worth Asking

The Lord has always desired to be in relationship with man. When man decided to disconnect himself from his Creator, the Creator, in his grace and mercy, determined a pathway to be reconnected with his creation. In the Old Testament that meant obeying the Law given through Moses, which included a sacrificial system that positioned the people to offer a praise that was pleasing to the Lord. In the New Testament, we are no longer required to offer up burnt offerings, because Jesus offered up himself. We do, however, still have a means by which we can offer up a praise that is pleasing to the Lord. God receives the gifts we give (our time, talent and treasure) in advancement of the gospel as a pleasing aroma. But we must not think that we are earning God's favor through the giving of gifts. The gifts we give must be birthed out of a love that we have for our Savior. When our gifts are birthed out of a partnership with Christ, they lead to a profitable return. We will have the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:9-11). Knowing what the Savior supply's for our sacrifice really makes our sacrifice seem a lot less sacrificial. May we all look to give more and more because of our partnership in the gospel and the position it gives us in glory.

1. Why do we tend not to give (time, talent and/or treasure) as much as we can and even sometimes more than we may be absolutely comfortable with in service to our Savior?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How did it feel when someone gave of their time, talent and/or treasure to help you in your time of need?
- How do you feel when you even think someone has the means by which to help you but doesn't take the steps to meet you at the point of your need.?
- Why do we second guess or overthink giving to meet someone that appears to be in need?

2. How does it feel when a gift you have given has an overwhelming impact on the recipient?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- What does the reality of God's pleasure with gifts given for his glory do to your thought process on giving gifts?
- What types of gifts (time, treasure and/or talent) do you believe God would be pleased with receiving from you?
- Knowing the impact of the gift and the imminent return of our Savior, what should your level of urgency and sacrifice look like in this season/stage of your life?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you position yourself for a profitable partnership...

1. Click [here](#) to email Phil Lauria and see where you can help serve the body of believers on Sundays.
2. Look at the things you currently have (time, talent and/or treasure) and leverage what God has given you to be a blessing to someone else.
3. Spend some time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the areas that you are withholding from partnering in the advancement of the gospel. Respond obediently by doing what the Holy Spirit is prompting you to do.

The Savior's Supply

Philippians 4:19-20; Matthew 10:40-42; Mark 9:41; Psalm 37:23-26

Questions Worth Asking

Unlike the customs of the day, Paul didn't feel obligated to repay the Philippians for their generous gift. Paul's stance wasn't the result of the Philippians gift being too meager to rate the right to be repaid. On the contrary, the gift that was received by Paul was given in response to a partnership with Christ. Therefore, it was the God of Creation that was on the hook to repay. They would be compensated for their gifts by none other than God himself. And God was going to give them a return that they could never purchase if they gave all that they ever had and will ever have. This transaction would take place in Christ Jesus. And Paul said in the earlier part of chapter 4 that we find unity, joy and peace in Christ Jesus. We also find strength, hope and salvation in Christ Jesus. So, the exchange won't be your steak dinner for the Lord's lobster dinner. You give a shirt in the name of Jesus, you get peace in Christ Jesus. You give a meal in the name of Jesus you, you get joy in Christ Jesus. The Lord will supply all your needs according to his riches. And his riches exceed anything we can think or imagine here on earth.

1. Based on what you pursue, what would an observer say you truly value?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- How do the things you desire impact where you spend your time, talent and treasure?
- What expectations do you have from the people and/or things that you invest a majority of your time?
- How does your focusing on someone's appreciation or reciprocation of your giving determine your future participation in the relationship?

3. What impact does knowing God's currency (riches in glory) and exchange rate (he will repay) have on your investment (gifts given) in his stock (advancing the gospel)?

Digging Deeper Discussion:

- When you think of what you get (joy, peace, unity, strength, etc.) in Christ, what are you willing to give in service to Christ?
- How has your growth in Christ changed the way you give your time, talent and treasure to the things of Christ?
- What has Christ been impressing on you to give (resources, pain, bitterness, time, etc.) that you have been reluctant to let go of?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some steps that will help you release what you have so you can get what you can never earn...

1. Write out the things that you feel heartburn about letting go.
2. Think about the things that you get when you OBEY LOVE.
3. **Read and meditate [Leviticus 26](#) on [Genesis 22:1-19](#).**
4. Give up one thing that you have been holding on to that has been distracting you from giving God your undivided attention.