

# Content in the Lord We Generously Support Gospel Ministry

## Sermon Text: Philippians 4:10-20

<sup>10</sup> I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

<sup>14</sup> Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. <sup>17</sup> Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1.) How were the Philippians a fine example for us of Christian concern? (v. 10, 14, 18) How is this especially remarkable in light of their material circumstances (cf. 2 Cor. 8:1-4)?

2.) Verse 13, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength," is a favorite verse of the determined Christian achiever. How does the surrounding context qualify the flavor of this boast?

3.) Of what can we be sure as we give freely, confidently, and generously for the spread of the gospel? (v. 18b-20)

## First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:1-5

*The priests, who are Levites—indeed the whole tribe of Levi—are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the offerings made to the LORD by fire, for that is their inheritance. <sup>2</sup> They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.*

<sup>3</sup> *This is the share due the priests from the people who sacrifice a bull or a sheep: the shoulder, the jowls and the inner parts. <sup>4</sup> You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep, <sup>5</sup> for the LORD your God has chosen them and their descendants out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name always.*

1.) The LORD gave the Levites and their fellow-Israelites clear instructions on how the material needs of the priests and their families were to be supplied. What message did this communicate to the Levites and the Israelites?

2.) All the Old Testament laws, prophecies, illustrations, and types have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Thus, the ordinances and stipulations surrounding the Levitical priesthood are no longer in effect today. However, our giving in the New Testament era is still guided by the same underlying stewardship principles. Which principles are described in verses 3 and 4?

### **Gospel: Luke 10:1-12**

*After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.*

*<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'*

*<sup>10</sup> "But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town."*

1.) How do Jesus' instructions to the seventy-two balance immediate need, trust in God, and contentment?