

Love deeply, give generously, trust God (part 2)
Phil 4.10-20; 06-14-20

Central thought: Faithful financial support of gospel causes pleases God

Trusting God to provide the means for missionary partnerships (14-20) (cf. v13 & v19)

A. Appreciation (14-17)

1. Missionaries are blessed by partnerships with local churches (14)
2. Effective partnerships are enduring or long-standing (15-16)
 - a. Finances matter – but the plumb line is faithfulness
 - b. Partnership is not dependent upon “success” or positive circumstances
3. Partnerships invite the Lord’s blessing on the church (17) Several benefits arise:
 - a. Raises awareness & interest for gospel advance
 - b. Facilitates relationships among individuals in the partnership (some become personal supporters)
 - c. Promotes more generous giving – know of real people in real places doing real ministry
 - d. Nurtures unity in body – focus is on gospel work, not on secondary matters of comfort/preference

This type of giving is more than a business affiliation; it’s grounded in mutual love for Jesus & His gospel

This type of giving reflects understanding of grace each believer has received & desires others to receive

This type of giving is motivated by a desire to please God & invite His blessing – that is the higher goal

B. Affirmation (18-19)

1. The gift is helpful (18)
2. The display of concern for the gospel is encouraging to Paul (18)
3. Three benefits derive from the gift (18-19)
 - a. it pleases God (18b) Everything we think and say and do should pursue this goal!
 - b. It blesses the recipient (18b)
 - c. (implied) it blesses the giver (cf. Acts 20.35) *Jesus says, more blessed to give than receive*

One more benefit in v19: Where God sends, He will supply

1) Paul is not advocating financial recklessness on part of Phil church . . .

He is affirming the priority of the gospel for church strategy and vision

He is affirming sacrificial giving as something the church should aim for

He is affirming that God blesses what God prioritizes (cf. Prov 11.25; Prov 19.17, Matt 5.7)

We must never do something with intention or insinuation to make God our debtor

God's most significant blessings are spiritual & eternal (Rom 8.1; Eph 2.8-9; 2 Cor 3.18; 1 Jn 3.2)

Paul is always careful to reinforce the spiritual foundation when he deals w/practical impact

2) Paul is not calling Philippians to bankrupt themselves or strip every means of provision

He is encouraging them to give sacrificially because

that attitude is pleasing to God

that attitude mimics Jesus and testifies to the sacrifice that God provided for our redemption

that attitude reveals a deep love for God & a readiness to pursue what God pursues

that attitude reflects a trust that God will faithfully provide for those who faithfully obey His will

C. Acclamation (20) glory to God who is sovereign over all

Closing word (21-23)

It's a relatively standard closing (21-22)

The closing is like the opening (23) (cf. 1.2)

God is first in Paul's heart, and God is last in Paul's heart. For Paul, God is all in all.