

Phil. 4:

I have entitled today's message, "The Partnership of Missions"

Phil. 4:10

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

Phil 4:10-19

Let us pray

You may be seated

This church in Philippi cared for Paul because He came to Philippi.

He had brought the gospel to them.

The church of Philippi and Paul partnered together in the Lord's work.

Who do we partner with?

The reason we send people/partner with missionaries is to help us to accomplish the Great Commission as a local church.

To be obedient to Jesus Christ in reaching the world.

The church worked locally in Philippi and Paul went to the uttermost. COLLABORERS

Vs. 10 –

Paul is exuberant in his expression and gratitude toward the Philippian church:

Rejoiced Greatly

HE ACKNOWLEDGES Their GIFT — rejoicing in the spirit that gave it.

This gift to Paul was a blessing, and a help and an encouragement.

Paul is not earning a living like a normal person who works a regular job.

Paul did not live like a normal person who sleeps regularly in his own bed.

We know that Paul traveled in His work for the Lord. We cannot hold down a regular job and travel.

Paul was a worker. He was not afraid to work.

Paul worked with his own hands, tent maker, to support himself and his traveling crew.

Acts 20:34-35

Acts 18:3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them (Aquila and Priscilla), and wrought (labored and toiled): for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

Leather

Paul taught in that if any would not work, neither should he eat. **2 Thessalonians 3:10**

Paul worked in many churches and never charged them nor was He a burden to them.

2 Thessalonians 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought (free); but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

2 Corinthians 11:8-9 I robbed other churches, taking wages *of them*, to do you service. And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia (Philippi) supplied: and in all *things* I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep *myself*.

Paul Commended the Philippian church for their repeated generosity.

Vs. 14 – Paul stated that the church done well, sending their gift through Epaphroditus.

Communicated (shared) with Paul's affliction.

What affliction? He is in jail. He is writing to them from jail. It is hard to make a living from a jail cell.

Being in prison made him very dependent on outside help.

That's why Hebrews 13:3 says to Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; *and* them which suffer adversity (identify), as being yourselves also in the body.

Those who are in jail for the cause of Christ.

When they sent Epaphroditus and a gift (an encourager and encouragement), that meant so much to Paul.

To know others are with you, behind you and thinking of you when you are out in the field of God.

If it was your son in the military, everyday you thinking and praying and looking to encourage.

These are the soldiers on the front lines.

Vs. 14 carries a sense of fellowship in the work. Colaboring.

He is thanking them, and He is grateful for more than the actual gift but their sharing in the Work of God.

They did well, Paul says. You done good, real good.

Paul felt it deeply.

Vs. 15 – Many years ago, they supported Paul.

It was in the beginning of the gospel--dating back to the first preaching of the Gospel at Philippi.

They had but just become Christians; When they first believed.

Philippians 1:5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

Loyal, never forgot/long time partnership in the Gospel.

Have you ever seen a church born?

If you are there, if you are a part of it, you never forget it. Like the birth of your own children.

Burton, South Hutchinson, Moldova

Acts 16:12-15 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, *and* a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. And on the sabbath (Saturday) we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

Jail/Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:40 And they went out of the prison, and entered into *the house of Lydia*: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

Vs. 15 as concerning giving and receiving—

In the account between us, "the giving" Paul gave, they gave; "the receiving" Paul received, they received.

ye only—You and you alone

Double edge - Thankful for them but where are the others?

We are not to wait to see what others will do or assume that others will give.

They did not wait to see what others would give; they set the example; they gave what they could, and that right away.

They were the first regularly support Paul in God's work.

What church sent Paul? Antioch

I received nothing from others, YE ONLY.

1 Corinthians 9:11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

Vegetables, eggs, food

Galatians 6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate (share) to him that teaches in all good things.

For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn; and The laborer is worthy of his reward. I Timothy 5:18

Vs. 16 – After leaving Philippi, Paul went to Thessalonica about 25 miles away

While there, They gave to Paul. They assisted him again and again.

They gave.

Vs. 17 –

They gave unasked.

Paul did not desire gifts; but he did desire Fruit to their account.

Paul sought their spiritual good.

I desire fruit; something good To your account,

A phrase taken from business dealings.

Paul's heart was that the gift be *to their credit*, so that, when they came to appear before God, they might reap the benefit of all of their kindness which they had shown him.

God keeps an account, an exact account!

Their gift allowed Paul to work free of charge in Thessalonica and in Corinth.

We can certainly do more when we are in full time in ministry but if necessary every minister should have the mindset to work and provide for themselves and still do ministry.

Many think and act this way, "They will only do ministry if they are paid."

Paul worked with his hands.

I understand work.

When I first began in ministry, I worked at CCHS and TSW.

Bi- vocational is the technical word.

Great way to meet people and get submerged in the culture.

3 jobs, 5 years, 4 babies.

Fully supported- for 10 years. 2008 - 50% 2013 - 75%

Support allows me to work free in China, Moldova. No charge.

In fact, I usually deliver money to these areas.

Churches charge, ministries charge, musicians charge.

To be no burden to them whatsoever.

Paul said, This is fruit to your account.

This is co-laboring and therefore co-sharing in the missionary fruit.

Vs. 18 – Paul had received more than enough.

He was amply supplied and overwhelmed with their generosity.

Paul regarded the gift to him as an offering which they had made to God himself.

That is humbling.

Paul described their gift as fragrant, as a sacrifice, as well pleasing to God.

Those gifts helped Paul personally, but they had a far higher value.

Giving to the Lord and His work is a very sacred thing;
 God sees those gifts as given to Himself.

When we give to God's church, servant, work: we are giving to God.

Jesus said, if we have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me.

It is a mistake to suppose that the benefit of giving is all on the side of the recipients.

THE BENEFIT OF/To the giver. Not realized fully until Heaven.

It is *fruit*, which is added to the account.

Giving is a sacrifice that is well-pleasing to God.

God sees in every act of self-denial a reflection of his own Son who gave.

GIVING is PART OF the WORSHIP of God.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Jesus said, Acts 20:35

In turn, Paul reminded them **in Vs. 19** – God would supply all their needs.

God blesses them that give and the one that receives.

God would amply supply their need.

Proverbs 11:24 There is that scattereth (freely gives), and yet increaseth; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty.

Do not think if we give, we will impoverish ourselves!

The Philippians wanted to give more, Vs. 10 wherein ye were also careful/mindful, but ye lacked opportunity;

They had the same affection and inward care for him all along but lacked opportunity.

They lost the opportunity of helping Paul after he had left town.

No western union or PayPal or money gram. no postal service

Paul was on the move, and they had difficulty catching up with him.

They were hindered somehow,

But when they had the opportunity and they knew where he was, they sent a gift.

The Bible teaches us that when we have the opportunity, do not hold back.

Proverbs 3:27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*.

Paul said, I did not say all of this so you can give me another gift.

Paul was not thanking them or praising them so that they will give again.

Like Husbands who praise a certain meal in hopes of getting that again.

Not that I speak in respect of want. vs. 11

Paul served God whether finances or food were there or not.

He had learned to be content, full or hungry.

He had learned to live with little and a lot.

This is a real test for the worker of God.

Will he continue in ministry when suffering?

Way too many who want to work for God, will not work, until they have income.

My advice to the missionary, is to get your home churches blessing and have them send you and just go to work and let God take care of the supply.

Be willing to physically work.

My advice, for churches especially the sending church, is to partner and really invest, sacrificially invest.

Instead, we have many who go around seeking support...

Some never get to the field.

Some waste many days before they get there because of the Traditional/American system of mission's support.

Where is faith and letting God, God's people and God's Churches meet the need and supply...

Can the missionary work with his hands, can we do a job?

Though Paul was often in circumstances of need, real need, yet he did not allow that to stop the ministry of soul winning, discipleship and church planting.

This was a real partnership/relationship where each party in lowliness of mind, esteemed the other better than themselves.

They worked together for the cause of Christ.

Let us stand for closing invitation