

“ON MISSION WITH GOD”

Philippians 4:10-20

We exist to glorify God by totally committing ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the explosive growth of His kingdom.

Our Lord didn't save us from the ravages of sin so that we might soak up the pleasures of this fallen world. CFBC is not here to play it safe. We are here to be kingdom difference makers!

Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done; Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgement seat; Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last. (C.T. Studd, Missionary)

Open your Bible to the letter of Philippians. I am amazed at the way this group of believers partnered with God to get the gospel to the world.

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Their adopted missionary was none other than the Apostle Paul.

He wrote this letter from a prison cell in Rome where he was incarcerated for preaching the gospel. He wrote to encourage them in their walk with Jesus and to say, **“Thank you for your generous support!”** Here’s the challenge you must accept...

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT FOR THE GOSPEL!

To help you buy into this idea, God’s Word supplies...

1. THE PRINCIPLE THAT EDUCATES

These Christians embraced the idea that ...

A.) Giving Is A Partnership

Philippians 4:14–16... Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. 15 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first

preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; **16** for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs.

They were genuinely concerned about Paul's welfare. Look at the word "share" in verses 14-15. **This word carries the idea of active participation with someone or something.**

When we give to support the Lord's work locally, nationally, and globally, we are actively participating in the lives of missionaries and church planters. Giving to the World Mission Offering is in every sense of the word a partnership!

B.) Giving Is An Investment

Philippians 4:17... Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

Paul continued to unpack this principle by reminding them that that giving generously not

only benefited him and not only benefited the Lord and His kingdom; it also benefited the believers in Philippi.

“Profit” is a banking term that literally means accumulated interest. No wonder Paul challenged Timothy with the need to teach believers the necessity of being generous...

1 Timothy 6:18–19... *Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

Proverbs 11:25... The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.

C.) Giving Is Worship

Philippians 4:18... *But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have*

sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Paul used Old Testament sacrificial imagery—“***A fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.***”

Jewish worshipers would bring their burnt offering to God. The blood would be poured out on the altar and the animal would be presented as a sacrifice to God. The fire of the altar would consume the sacrifice and send a soothing aroma into heaven where God would smell it and be satisfied.

Paul looked on their gift as a spiritual sacrifice offered to God as an act of worship. The idea of “spiritual sacrifices” in the Christian life is prevalent in the Bible (Romans 12:1, Hebrews 13:15-16).

1 Peter 2:5... you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Paul saw their support as the supply of his need from heaven through the church. What do we learn about the principle of giving from these verses?

- **Giving is a partnership.**
- **Giving is an investment.**
- **Giving is an act of worship.**

Here is the Apostle Paul in the squalor of a Roman prison saying to the Philippian believers...

“Because of your generosity I have got everything I could possibly need.”

Are you ready to accept the challenge?

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT FOR THE GOSPEL!

For this to be a reality in our lives, we've got to grasp the principle that educates. Second, there is also ...

2. THE PROMISE THAT MOTIVATES

Philippians 4:19... And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Here is one of the great promises in the Bible. Now, I want you to understand that this promise does have a premise (condition). The premise is the generous giving described in verses 14-18.

God's treatment of the Philippian believers would correspond to their support of Paul and their passion for the gospel.

They supplied Paul's every need to overflowing. God would do the same for them. Hudson Taylor often said...

"When God's work is done in God's way for God's glory, it will not lack for God's supply."

Notice that...

A.) God Is The Source

“And my God will supply all your needs”

God will never be whatever you want Him to be.

He is the one, true God. And if you repent of your sins and place your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, He will forgive your sins and adopt you as His child. You, along with Paul, can call the Creator—“MY GOD”.

God loved Israel. When they needed food in the wilderness, He provided the food they needed. When they needed water, He provided the water they needed. When they needed guidance, He provided the guidance they needed.

Because generous believers are faithful in their giving, they can always depend on God to be their source to meet their needs. He is dependable!

B.) God Is The Supply

“According to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

God's provision for our needs is relative to the immensity of His eternal riches in glory in Christ Jesus!

The Philippians had given sacrificially to support the Lord's work through the Apostle Paul [2 Cor. 8:1-3]. Now they could expect God to meet their needs.

Luke 6:38... "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

2 Corinthians 9:6... Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Have you developed the pattern of generous giving prescribed by our text today? Listen, you can't out give God!

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT FOR THE GOSPEL!

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God's Word supports this powerful challenge by highlighting the principle that educates and the promise that motivates. That's not all. There is also...

3. THE PRAISE THAT ACCELERATES

Philippians 4:20 ... Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, you will find that giving to the Lord's work so that the gospel penetrates lostness generates praise for ...

A.) The Grace of God

What a privilege it is to call the God who hung the stars in their places—"our God and Father."

What gives us that right? As believers we have placed our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our sins have been forgiven. Our names are inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life. God knows you by name and He never takes His eyes off you.

2 Chronicles 16:9... “For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His....”

So, you can praise the living God because of His infinite grace! Secondly, your praise will intensify because of ...

B.) The Glory of God

What does it mean to “glorify God?” It means to *“add weight to God...to honor God...to build up the reputation of God.”*

Think about it. Here we are today studying about a church that existed 2000 years ago. They glorified God by being on mission with Him and by giving generously to the cause of the gospel. As a result, God is being glorified today!

CONCLUSION

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Five minutes after you die, what will you wish that you had done with your life? I remind you of C.T. Studd's piercing words...

“Only one life, twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last.”

Don't waste your life on the frivolous things of this broken and soon-to-disappear world system. Make a commitment to...

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT FOR THE GOSPEL!

There is something about these church members at Philippi you need to know...

2 Corinthians 8:3–5... For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord, **4** begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, **5** and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

Do you see the truth here? Before they gave their offering, *they first gave themselves to the Lord.*

Jesus wants your heart before He wants your offering.

Have you given yourself to the Lord in full-bodied commitment? Do you love the Lord with all your heart, your soul, and your mind? Believer, give Him your heart today!

If you have not received Jesus as your Savior and Lord, I want to encourage you to place your faith in Him this morning. He sacrificed Himself for you on the cross and was gloriously resurrected from the dead so that your sins could be forgiven and so you could be reconciled to God. He and He alone can offer you forgiveness and the gift of eternal life. Give your heart to Christ!

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT FOR THE GOSPEL!

This truth becomes a reality in our lives when we get a firm grip on...

1. THE PRINCIPLE THAT EDUCATES

A.) *Giving Is A Partnership (14-16)*

B.) *Giving Is An Investment (17)*

C.) *Giving Is Worship (18)*

2. THE PROMISE THAT MOTIVATES

A.) *God Is The Source (19)*

B.) *God Is The Supply (19)*

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3. THE PRAISE THAT ACCELERATES

A.) *The Grace Of God (20)*

B.) *The Glory Of God (20)*