



The Letter to the Philippians – Lesson 8

Philippians 4:10-23

In our study of the book of Philippians, we have enjoyed Paul’s affectionate and encouraging message to his beloved friends in the church at Philippi. This final section of the letter to the Philippians revisits topics that Paul has addressed in earlier sections of the letter—joy in the spread of the gospel, gratitude for the Philippians’ faithful giving, confidence in God’s provision, and assurance that God is pleased by their steadfast service.

1. Read Philippians 4:10-20. *Paul gives thanks for the Philippians’ support.*
 - a. Read this passage at least twice. What is the overall topic being addressed in this passage?

Roman prisoners under house arrest were dependent upon their friends and family to provide for their rent, food, water, and other needs while they were in confinement. Paul was chained to a Roman guard, night and day. He could not eat unless friends brought him food. He could not write his letters unless friends brought him writing materials. Given these circumstances, it is especially noteworthy that Paul’s attitude was joyful. Paul was confident that his difficult circumstances had worked for the progress of the gospel, and that was his highest priority.

- b. What has been the Philippians’ past history of sending financial gifts to support Paul’s ministry? (Phil. 4:15-16)

- c. What is Paul's response to receiving this latest gift from the Philippian church?
- d. What remarkable secret has Paul learned through his decades of resolute service for Christ? (Phil. 4:12-14)
- e. **For personal reflection:** If you were able to develop Paul's perspective in your own life, how would it serve to enhance your own peace and joy? Is there a practice or a technique that you could adopt that would help you in this area? Share ideas with your group.
- f. Given the context of Paul's statement in verse 13, what do you think Paul means by saying, "*I can do all this through Him who gives me strength*"?
- g. Paul commends the Philippians for their generosity. What does Paul mean in verse 17 when he speaks of "*what may be credited to your account*"? As you consider your answer, take notice of God's view of these gifts in Phil. 4:18.
- h. Although God is able to supernaturally provide for every one of our physical needs directly, He usually meets our extraordinary needs through the godly service and generosity of others. Why do you think this is so? Suggest at least three reasons.

- i. If this is how God typically works to strengthen and encourage His people, what does that imply about our responsibilities in handling our own resources? What difference should this realization make in your own life?

 - j. God has provided all of Paul's needs as he has dedicated his life to advancing the gospel of Christ. What is Paul's assurance to these believers who have contributed sacrificially to his needs?

 - k. Read James 1:2-4 and James 1:16-17. How do these passages sharpen your understanding of Philippians 4:19-20? What do you learn about life and about God from these passages?
2. Read Philippians 4:21-23 *Paul gives final greetings to his beloved friends*
- a. Paul mentions saints (believers) who "*belong to Caesar's household.*" Who do you think these believers might be? How would they have heard the gospel? What does this tell you about God's wisdom and sovereignty?

 - b. How has your study of Philippians impacted your view of God? Your view of Christ? Your view of life's problems? Your view of a joyful heart?