

LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN #14
“Giving and Receiving in the Gospel”
Philippians 4:14-23

Any time money comes between two people the potential for rifts, misunderstandings, and conflict is very real. The Philippians had supported Paul financially above and beyond the call of duty, but Paul had to clear some things up with them about their generous gifts they gave him. This passage must be understood through the social norms of the day in that friendship involved “giving and receiving” gifts. When given a gift it was expected you would reciprocate. Paul wanted break this mentality and make sure they understood that when they gave him money they were giving to God. Paul wanted them to know that when he gave them the gospel it was from God through Paul. Today’s teaching will give us numerous insights about stewardship and supporting missionaries.

#1. FUNDING MISSIONARIES IS A FORM OF FELLOWSHIP, v. 14

- A. They shared (fellowshipped) with Paul in the gospel
- B. They shared in Paul’s troubles in spreading the gospel

#2. FUNDING MISSIONARIES IS A CHURCH ACTIVITY, vv. 15-16

- A. Paul hasn’t forgotten their unsolicited generosity, v. 15
- B. Paul knew the social aspect of “friendship” in that culture, v. 15
- C. Paul’s financial relationship: “giving and receiving”, v. 15
- D. Paul knew the “reciprocity” factor in giving & receiving, v. 15
- E. Paul received money from them several times, v. 16, 2 Cor 8:1-5

#3. FUNDING MISSIONARIES IS AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR ETERNAL WELLBING, vv. 17-18a

- A. Paul didn’t want them to send more money, v. 17
- B. Paul saw their gift as an investment in God’s economy, v. 17
- C. Paul saw their giving as accruing interest in their account, v. 17
- D. Paul knew they would be rewarded by God for their giving, v. 17, Mat 6:1-6
- E. Paul’s letter is receipt of their gift, v. 18a

#4. FUNDING MISSIONARIES IS AN ACT OF WORSHIPING GOD, v. 18b

- A. Their offering was primarily to God, secondarily to Paul
- B. Their offering is a fragrant offering
- C. Their offering is an acceptable sacrifice
- D. Their offering is pleasing to God

#5. FUNDING MISSIONARIES IS TO BE DONE WITHOUT A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP, vv. 19-20

- A. God is the Benefactor for both parties
- B. God brought the gospel to them through Paul
- C. God brought money to Paul through the Philippians
- D. God supplies their needs—Paul is not indebted to them

#6. FAREWELL – HIS FINAL APPEAL FOR UNITY, vv. 21-23

- A. Greet “all” the saints, v. 21
 - B. “All” the saints send you greetings, v. 22
 - C. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with “your” spirit, v. 23
-

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE
Philippians 4:14-23

Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵Moreover, 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; ¹⁶for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. ¹⁷Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. ²⁰To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. ²¹Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings. ²²All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. ²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. ⁵And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. In what way(s) do people fellowship in the gospel?
- #2. Why should giving to missionaries be considered a church activity?
- #3. What did Paul mean by “giving and receiving”?
- #4. In their culture why was reciprocity so important in a friendship?
- #5. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and discuss your observations about the giving of the Macedonian churches.
- #6. Discuss the banking metaphor Paul uses in vv. 17-18.
- #7. In what sense is giving to missionaries an investment in your eternal future?
- #8. In what sense is giving to missionaries an act of worship?

#9. In what sense is God the benefactor / patron of both Paul and the Philippians?

#10. What did Paul mean when he said, “My God shall supply all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”?

#11. What are your thoughts about giving to the Great Commission Fund?

#12. What have you learned about the stewardship of your resources?

#13. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

Today's Songs

This Is Amazing Grace

Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Verse 2

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Chorus

(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life

That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me

Verse 3

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory

Verse 4

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy

CCLI Song # 6333821

In Your Presence

Verse 1

In Your presence there is freedom
In Your presence there is hope
In Your presence there is healing
Love restores me I am whole

Pre-Chorus

No matter how far I run
You are with me
No matter how far I fall

Chorus

Your love is everlasting
Your kindness never ends
God You never leave me
Your presence goes before us
Your glory has no end
God You never leave me

Interlude

Oh oh (oh) (yeah)

Verse 2

In Your presence there is power
Through Your Spirit strength will rise
In Your presence there is mercy
In Your presence I'm alive

Bridge

You will be our guide to the end to the end
The Lord is with me He will not forsake me

CCLI Song # 6446921

Forever Reign

Verse 1

You are good You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love You are love
On display for all to see
You are light You are light
When the darkness closes in
You are hope You are hope
You have covered all my sin

Verse 2

You are peace You are peace
When my fear is crippling
You are true You are true
Even in my wandering
You are joy You are joy
You're the reason that I sing
You are life You are life
In You death has lost its sting

Chorus

(Oh) I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign

Verse 3

You are more You are more
Than my words will ever say
You are Lord You are Lord
All creation will proclaim
You are here You are here
In Your presence I'm made whole

You are God You are God
Of all else I'm letting go

Bridge

My heart will sing no other Name
Jesus Jesus
(REPEAT 4X)

CCLI Song # 5639997

In Christ Alone

Verse 1

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

Verse 2

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

Verse 3

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Verse 4

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

CCLI Song # 3350395

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

Because of the extraordinary times we are living in due to the pandemic the District Superintendent, Wayne Spriggs, has given churches permission to suspend their bylaws regarding their annual meeting. Therefore, we will not be having our annual meeting for 2021. The present board members will continue to serve for another year and a financial report will be made available to the congregation for next year.

A TEMPORARY SETBACK

We are closing our doors again in compliance with the local authorities. We are broadcasting our Sunday service from the church, but we are not open for public worship.

Tuesday Bible Study at 6:30: a discussion of the previous sermon.

This Wednesday we are having a Thanksgiving celebration service at 6:30 instead of our normal Wednesday prayer meeting. (access both by clicking the zoom link)

We will no longer be having our Saturday gatherings at the park.

Thank you for financially supporting the ministry of Hillcrest Church. You can give online at the church website or mail your check to the church.

- Give to the general fund (our operating expenses)
- Give to the elder's fund (to assist those in financial need)
- Give to the Great Commission fund (for the missionaries of the CMA)