

Philippians 4:13-17

Being Strengthened & Sharing in Paul's Ministry, Part 1

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Philippians 4:13-17

13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. 14 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. 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

Running Start

What have we covered so far in Chapter 4?

- 1: Beloved brethren (and Sistren)
- 2-3: Why can't we be friends?
- 4: Rejoice. And, by the way, rejoice again
 - ▶ Echoes 3:1 (and many others)
- 5: Be known to be gentle
 - ▶ See also 2:14-15
- 6: Set it, and forget it
 - ▶ Major theme of this portion is God's provision
- 7: Get a peace of God
 - ▶ This extends far beyond material "peace of mind"
- 8-9: The excellent and worthy life
 - ▶ Prescription, or description?

The cares of this life

Where were last week?

- 10: Concern for Paul

- ▶ The Phillipans always had a concern for Paul
- ▶ They did not always have an opportunity to express that concern materialistically
 - ★ Christ's love extends far beyond the earthly
- ▶ How important is it to look for opportunities to meet one another's needs?
 - ★ Discuss: Each time God allows a need in one saint's life, He gives another saint the means to supply that need

- 11: Being content

- ▶ Content = self-sufficient
- ▶ Who (whom?) was Paul relying on for material sustenance?
- ▶ Where do you suppose was Paul's focus?
- ▶ Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:1-2

For richer, and for poorer

Continuing from last week ...

- 12: Getting along with abundance, and with drought
 - ▶ Is it easier for the believer to live with plenty, or with need?
 - ▶ Does God desire that we be filled, or that we be hungry?
 - ▶ What value does wealth have to the believer?
 - ▶ What value does poverty have to the believer?
- The world cannot understand the way of the believer
 - ▶ All they have is this earth and what's on it
- The world can never have the fellowship the church enjoys
 - ▶ How much of our contentment comes from the fellowship within the body?
- So much of this hearkens back to chapter 3, where Paul spoke of having the proper perspective
 - ▶ All things he counted loss for Christ
 - ▶ What value is spiritual and/or material gain?

Everything

*13 I can do **all things** through Him who strengthens me.*

Greek (pas)

some of all types

- This seems to be a rather generic word
- In the context, implies "all [these] things" or "all the things I should be doing"
- Specifically, Paul is saying he can live with little or with lots because his sufficiency is Christ
- Comparison passages in Philippians
 - ▶ 2:3, 2:14, 3:8, 4:6, 4:8
 - ▶ Matthew 6:33, Romans 8:28-29

Being Mr. Incredible

- How was Paul able to do "all these things"?
- How will we be able to do "all these things"?
- What does it mean for a believer to be "self-sufficient"?
- Galatians 2:21 *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and [fn]the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*
- We are in heaven, beholding the Glory of the Lord; Christ is living our life on earth
 - ▶ Obliterates any and all earthly concerns

The Strength of 1 billion men

13 *I can do all things through Him who **strengthens** me.*

Greek (endynamoō)

to make strong or vigorous; to strengthen; inwardly give the ability (Vern)

- Paul was given the strength necessary to do the task
- Was this merely an addition to his current power?
- Hebrews 11:32-34 *And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness **were made strong** [dynamoō], became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.*

Chopped Liver?

14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.

“Wait a minute. If you can do ‘all these things’ through Christ, what need to you have for us?” said the inquisitive Philippian

- What are the agents of Christ’s working in our lives?
 - ▶ Does He work through chance/fate?
 - ▶ Does He use the natural elements of the earth?
- Philippians 2:17-18 *But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.*
- How much of the “Peace of God” comes from fellowship with the saints?
- See verse 17

Within or Without You

The Dalai Lama says:

I believe the ultimate source of blessings is within us. A good motivation and honesty bring self-confidence, which attracts the trust and respect of others. Therefore the real source of blessings is in your own mind.

The Beatles say:

*With our love, with our love
We could save the world
If they only knew
Try to realize it's all within yourself
No one else can make you change
And to see you're really only very small
And life flows on within you and without you*

Expanded and explained

Paul (inspired by the Holy Spirit) says:

13 I can live through all extremes of need and prosperity by means of Him who provides in me the entire ability to do so. 14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction by providing this gracious gift at this time.