

# Philippians 4:18-23

## Being Amply Supplied + Closing Remarks

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## Philippians 4:18-23

*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. 19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

# The Gift of Giving

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

- What was Paul's perspective on the ups and downs of life?
- Where was Paul's sufficiency?
- How was Paul able to live a life above monetary loss or gain?
- What is the primary goal of grace giving?
- How does "froneo" relate to all this?

## Payment received

*18a But I have received everything in full and have an abundance;*

- Alt. translation: *But I received full payment of all things*
- *apecho* is an accounting term meaning "full payment of an obligation"
  - ▶ See Matthew 6:2,5,16
- *panta* is the same word used in verse 13
- *perisseuō* means "to abound, overflow"
  - ▶ Used also in verse 12
  - ▶ See Matthew 14:20; 15:37
- Does this say anything about God's provision?
- Is Paul's focus here on the spiritual, or on the earthly?

# More than enough

*18b I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.*

- *Amply supplied* is literally *made full*
  - ▶ Used again in verse 19
  - ▶ See John 12:3
- Paul acknowledges their gift, and notes that it was more than adequate
  - ▶ Technical side: Informing the Philippians that their gift made it to them
  - ▶ Thankful side: Acknowledges that he appreciates their Spirit-led generosity

## More than enough

*18b I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.*

- What does the phrase “fragrant aroma” bring to mind?
  - ▶ John 12:3–Mary’s gift
  - ▶ 2 Corinthians 2:14–17–sweet smelling savor to the world
  - ▶ Ephesians 5:2–pleasing sacrifice
- What does sacrifice mean for the saint?
  - ▶ Philippians 2:17–drink offering
  - ▶ Romans 12:1–2–good and acceptable sacrifice
  - ▶ 1 Peter 2:5–priesthood of the believer
- What about this was pleasing to the Lord?
  - ▶ Does anything earthly please the Lord?
  - ▶ Hebrews 11:6–faith pleases God
  - ▶ Where is the faith?

# Sacrifice for the Believer

What sacrifices can a believer make?

Philippians 4:18 what you have sent ... an acceptable sacrifice	Our possessions
Romans 12:1-2 I urge you ... to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God	Our bodies
Romans 15:16 so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.	Our converts
Hebrews 13:15 let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God	Our praise
Hebrews 13:16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.	Our good works

## Cosmic genie

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

- Essential distinction: needs vs. wants
  - ▶ Most people cannot distinguish between the two
  - ▶ Most people do not realize what their true needs are
- What are the conditions of this promise?
- What is the surety for this promise?
  - ▶ What good is a promise from someone who cannot fulfill it?
- What is God's ultimate goal for His saints?
  - ▶ Romans 8:28-29—Conformity with Christ
- Why does Paul place this here?
  - ▶ What does this have to do with the fellowship of the saints?
- Why does Paul say “my” God?



# The riches of God

- Ephesians 1:7 *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the **riches of His grace***
- Ephesians 1:18 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the **riches of the glory** of His inheritance in the saints*
- Ephesians 2:7 *so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing **riches of His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*
- Ephesians 3:8 *To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable **riches of Christ***
- Ephesians 3:16 *that He would grant you, according to the **riches of His glory**, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man*

## Lest we forget

*20 Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever....23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen*

- All of Paul's epistle end with either Glory to God, Grace to us, or both
  - ▶ All end with a reminder of the Grace of God
  - ▶ This was far more than just a perfunctory habit
- What is the particular significance of ending with glory to God?
  - ▶ The only book with an exhortation to the glory of God is Romans.
- In Philippians, there is an interesting symmetry
  - ▶ What do these bookends say about the scope and domain of the epistle?

# Symmetry in Philipians

1:1 all the saints (hagios) in Christ Jesus	4:21 every saint (hagios) in Christ Jesus
1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.	4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
1:3 my God	4:19 my God

# Greetings and Salutations

*21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.*

- *Greet every saint in Christ Jesus.*
  - ▶ Paul took advantage for personal greetings
  - ▶ Paul was personally invested in the saints at Philippi
- *The brethren who are with me greet you.*
  - ▶ Included Timothy and Epaphroditus
  - ▶ There might have been others who were familiar to the Philippians
- *All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.*
  - ▶ Working in "Caesar's Household" was an honored role

## Expanded and explained (1)

*18 But I have received everything in full – you owe me nothing more – and I now have an abundance of supply to meet my specific and real needs; I am amply supplied, having already received from Epaphroditus what you have sent. Your gift to me is received as a sacrifice to the Lord: a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 19 And the God with whom I have a personal relationship will supply all your genuine needs in keeping with the infinite quantity and eternal quality of His glorious riches made available to you by reason of your position in Christ Jesus.*

## Expanded and explained (2)

*20 Now to our mutual God and our Father be attributed the glory which is His very nature forever and ever. So be it. 21 I ask that you who read this greet every believer who has been made holy because of his position in Christ Jesus. The ones who have the same Father and are therefore your brethren, who are with me, greet every one of you in Philippi as well. 22 All the ones having been made saints here greet all of you, especially those who serve in various capacities in the service of Caesar. 23 The marvelous matchless grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*