



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

**Divine Provision**

**Tuesday, 3 March 2015**

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## CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

### 153<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

- **TUESDAY @ 7:30 AM** in 403 CAP
- **TUESDAY @ 12 NOON** in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission Bible Studies are held Tuesday mornings at 7:30am and again at 12 Noon. The weekly Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational. The study for the 2015 General Assembly is the book of Philippians (and the opening chapters of Romans).

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as an evidence of my desire to be serving you. – Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

### Capitol Commission Bible Studies

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Tuesday, 3 March 2015

### Philippians 4:10-23 – “Divine Provision”

A. T. Pierson gave the following account: “Supposing you had one thousand acres of land and someone approached you and made an offer to buy your farm. You agree to sell the land, except for one acre right in the center, with provisions for a right of way. ‘Do you know,’ he continued, that the law would allow you to have access to that one, lone spot in the middle of that thousand acres? You could build a road all across the remainder of that farm to get to that small plot of ground. And so it is with the Christian who makes less than a one-hundred-percent surrender to God. You can be sure that the devil will make an inroad across that person’s life to reach the unsundered portion and, as a result, his testimony and service will be marred and have little effect upon others” [The Evangel 37-38 (1972): 19].

### JOY IN ALL

Philippians 4 communicates to us that joy does not come from physical circumstances. The joy of the Lord is received from a life wholly committed to Him, and thus relying upon his divine provision and strength in our lives. Joy in all life circumstances comes from the Lord because He supplies all our needs “according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Five blessings are indicated in Philippians 4 as being received by believers as God’s sufficient provision, and for use in living the Christian life and for working together by the Lord’s grace, to his glory.

The *first blessing* is peace in the church when believers stand together (Phil 4:2-3). The head of the body is Christ, and every individual believer is a member of the body. The “head” works through the “body” to strengthen it for the purpose of edifying itself in love (Eph 4:15-16). The entire body is united with “each individual part” and this promotes the welfare “of the body for the building up of itself in love” (4:16; e.g. 1 Cor 16:15-24). If we are children of God, then we are to act in unity (Phil 4:1).

The *second blessing* is contentment (4:4-9). “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (4:6). Prayer and the word of God is the source of true strength and the means to success. Prayer is essential if one is not to “be anxious,” yet one must also include the mind.

A reorientation of our thinking is necessary if we are to “dwell” upon things that are excellent and praiseworthy (4:8-9). The mind must be trained so that it can be controlled. Contentment resides in being dependent upon the power of God, and thinking with regard to the revealed Word of God (i.e. the Bible).

### JOY IN CONTENTMENT

The *third blessing* is power to complete responsibilities (4:10-14). Believers do not have the prerogative to claim inadequacy to complete responsibilities. The objective is to accept responsibility, and rejoice in the Lord by trusting in Him to provide the strength needed to accomplish the responsibilities in life.

Secret initiation rites were common to Greek and Roman religions, and some religions and philosophies boasted that they possessed knowledge that is not commonly known. The believer has a different kind of disclosure, which is dependence upon Christ.

Stoicism was a pervasive philosophy in ancient Greece and within the Roman world; it emphasized an individual’s control of their emotions. Stoics relied upon their personal will to achieve contentment. The Bible denies that individuals have such personal inner strength; rather, fortitude is derived from the Lord Jesus abiding within the believer (John 15:1-11). When the Christian abides in Christ, he or she can be content (without any regard for circumstances).

Whatever the Lord God requires you to do, He will supply the power to succeed. Whatever gift God grants to you, He will grant the ability to exercise that spiritual endowment. God’s gifting is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The impasse



### Capitol Commission Bible Studies

Tuesday (3 March) @ 7:30am – 8:00am, 403 CAP

Tuesday (3 March) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP

lunch provided from sponsorship by Centerpoint Community Church, Springfield



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# Capitol Commission Georgia

## Divine Provision

between the flesh and the Spirit can be overcome by walking according to the Spirit.

“Walk” is a metaphor for one’s manner of living. To “walk” in the Spirit means consciously depending upon the Holy Spirit so He will empower my actions and determination. Consequently, it will be possible to defy “the things of the flesh” and fulfill “the requirement of the Law,” which is to heed God’s will (Rom 8:1-14; Eph 5:18-21). To walk in the Spirit is to live intentionally relying upon God to empower me as I persevere “to do good.”

As long as we heed the Holy Spirit’s leading, which is God’s work in creating a resistance to those things that are contrary to his will and purpose, we will be empowered by God. One will not have unlimited power to do whatever he or she desires; rather, God will grant one the enablement to do all things in the context of his holy and perfect will.

*Romans 8:5-6 – For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.*

Verse 13 does not teach that one can do anything desired; rather, strength comes from doing the things that Paul discussed in his epistle. In the immediate context, this would include the instruction of verses 8-9. The Christian life does have difficulties (cf. John 16:33), and it is impossible to gain God’s approval in our lives, *unless* we acquire the power to live in accordance with his will. God provides strength through the belief and practice of biblical truth.

### JOY IN GOD’S PROVISION

The *fourth blessing* is giving to support others in the ministry that God has provided. The church at Philippi sent gifts to Paul and he thanked them for their contribution to his ministry (4:15-16). Paul’s primary concern was not for himself, but for the believer’s “profit which increases” to their account (4:17). The blessing of God is in giving.

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**GOD OWNS ALL THINGS. . . ! HE GIVES ACCORDING TO HIS BOUNDLESS RICHES IN GLORY.**

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Believers may have confidence that God will supply all their needs “according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” because He knows his people better than they know themselves (4:18-19). Paul stated that his provisions were “in the Lord” (4:10), “through Him” (4:13), and “in Christ Jesus” (4:19, 21). All the blessings received are worthless without Christ as the focus of life and reason for work.

Scripture constantly and continually depicts God alone as the Creator of all that exists. The Bible insists that God creates and distributes all wealth (1 Chron 29:12; Ps 50:7-15). God owns all things!

*Psalm 50:9-10, 12 – “I shall take no young bull out of your house nor male goats out of your folds. “For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousands hills. . . . For the world is Mine, and all it contains.*

God is able to satisfy a multitude of needs from an infinite number of his people because He is unlimited “according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:19). Whereas you and I have limited funds, and will find those finances quickly depleted if we give to different causes, God has unlimited funds and is able to give limitlessly. God can provide for an infinite number of needs and still have an endless supply remaining. When the Lord God gives to his people, He gives according to his boundless riches in glory.

### JOY IN FELLOWSHIP

The *fifth blessing* is fellow believers. Paul wrote affectionately with regard to greeting “every saint in Christ Jesus” (4:21). Believers are to be a joy to one another. The church is not only to stand firm, but also to stand together in living the Christian life and seeking to glorify God by his grace. True unity and peace is possible for sinful beings. However, most importantly, one must have peace and fellowship with God. As believers avail themselves of God’s provisions, they are able to triumph in life and in working together.

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**GOD HAS PROMISED PROVISION BEYOND CALCULATION.**

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God has promised provision beyond calculation. The resources available to the child of God are according to his riches in glory. Every believer should know the experience of relying upon the promises of God for every need supplied. Not to prove God faithful of his promises and provisions is to impoverish one’s self. As needs are often in the physical realm, believers may be convinced that God delights to manifest his power and riches in everyday life. Believers may also be confident that the grace of God received by faith and repentance will result in overabundant provision in the higher realm of spiritual need. God is to be the joy and boast of every believer for He is their very life. I pray this study has been a blessing to you, and that the teaching of God’s Word will be the source of your strength and means to your success, until the day when you will know the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as perfectly as He knows you.

*Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.*

#### About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission’s mission, in partnership with the church, is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and promote the biblical mandate to pray for those in authority in the Capitol communities throughout the United States and around the world. Every election cycle brings us hundreds of newly elected legislators into the twenty-four state capitols where we presently have a State Minister. We intend to be there to provide pastoral care for these men and women. *Please join us in this ministry!*

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:



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**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES:  
TUESDAY, 10 MARCH @ 7:30AM in 403 CAP  
and again (with lunch) @ 12 Noon in 123 CAP**