



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Missionary's Thanks

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The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians (60-62 A.D.), Paul is imprisoned (one of four Prison Letters, the others being Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon) in Rome addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Philippi, the first founded by Paul in Europe. In this letter, Paul, having a fondness for the people of the church of Philippi, because of their faithfulness and generous nature, wanted to thank them for their gifts, letting them know why he was returning Epaphroditus to them, sharing his situation in prison, urging unity in church, and warning them against false teachers. While false doctrine had started to plague many of the churches, he wanted to provide encouragement for practical living and support for sound doctrine. While much of the letter deals with spiritual growth, the tone throughout is that there is joy in Christ and Paul rejoices in Christ being proclaimed regardless of his circumstance and that they also must conduct their lives, suffer, press on, live in harmony and contentment in and for Christ. Paul, the missionary, thanks the Philippian church for their noble giving. (Php 4:14-19 NASB)

“Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. 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; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.” (4:14-16)

Paul, their missionary and brother in Christ, appreciated their gifts. The Philippian church was a missional church. They did not just think about their own personal and local Christian needs but also sought out and supported their missionary, Paul. They understood what they were called to do and did it. The Philippian church, was the first town in Macedonia where Paul established a church and became the first, most faithful and most generous in meeting the mission needs of Paul.

While Paul, regardless of the circumstance, had learned the secret of contentment in any circumstance and was thankful to the Philippians for their support and gifts, he was more interested in their spiritual growth through their sacrificial giving.

“Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. 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. And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (4:17-19)

Sacrificial giving. The sacrificial spiritual motivation of the gift was far more important to Paul than the gift. Additionally, Paul noted that this type of giving continued to increase the furthering of the gospel through their support and that this type of spiritual sacrificial giving is acceptable and well-pleasing to God. Paul continues to share that being in the will of God through sacrificial gifts and giving will result in God supplying all of the needs of the believer according to His riches, which are limitless, in glory in Christ Jesus.

For Your Consideration:

- Have you thanked brothers and sisters in Christ for their sacrificial giving to you?
- Do you support missionaries sharing the gospel?
- Are your gifts and offerings acceptable and pleasing to God?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44