THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4:14-23

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"The Power of Giving" – Part 1

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

We've all heard the challenge to *"Put your money where your mouth is"* but when it comes to practical Christianity it might be better said; *"Put your money where your faith is".* We may all be familiar with the words of Jesus Christ

when He said…

Matthew 6:19

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

Philippians 4:15-23

14 Nevertheless you have **done well** that you shared in my distress. **15** Now you Philippians know also that **in the beginning of the gospel**, when I departed from Macedonia, no church **shared** with me concerning **giving** and **receiving** but you only. **16** For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. **17** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the **fruit** that **abounds** to your **account**. **18** Indeed I have **all** and **abound**. I am **full**, having **received** from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a **sweet-smelling aroma**, an **acceptable sacrifice**, **well pleasing** to God. **19** And my God shall **supply** all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. **20** Now to our God and Father be 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, but especially those who are of **Caesar's household**. **23** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

“The Power of Giving”

1.) **Puts us where the action is**	vs. 14-16
2.) **Puts us before His throne**	vs. 17-19
3.) **Puts us nearer to one another**	vs. 20-23

It’s an interesting observation to note that;

In Matthew, Mark, and, Luke, 1 out of every 6 verses deal with money and of the 29 parables of Jesus in Scripture, 16 of them deal with a man and his money.

Luke 16:13

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and money (mammon).”

The Background Behind His Closing Remarks:

14 Nevertheless you have **done well** that you shared in my distress.
(the **acts**, **actions** and **activities** of the Christian life is in mind here)

We read back in Acts chapter 16 and 17 that the Philippians first heard the gospel through the ministry of the apostle Paul as he stopped there and preached to them publicly that Jesus Christ had been crucified for their sins and was now risen from the dead! In a very real way Paul’s preaching made them eternally wealthy in the things of God.

The Power of Giving

1.) **Puts us where the action is**	vs. 14-16

The Power of Giving
Puts us where “WHERE” the action is

1a.) It **grants** us immediate access	vs. 15

Now you Philippians know also that in the **beginning of the gospel**, when I departed from Macedonia, no (other) church **shared** with me **concerning giving** and **receiving** but you only.

These are banking terms used.

The words “shared” and “concerning” and “giving” and “receiving”
All of these are accounting terms and bookkeeping.

By The Philippians Giving Financial Support:
They were Literally-Granted-Immediate-Access to the Work of God.

The Philippian Church was Clearly a Missions Minded Church.

When we think of missions we often think of some distant and remote part of the world, and so we should. But notice here that this mission minded church also saw the spiritual benefit to supply financial aid and physical support to the domestic missionary Paul.

By doing this, they enter into the successes and increase of Paul's ministry.

(This church does that. We are always praying and seeking the Lord as to how to get involved in a "wise and productive spiritual investment opportunity".)

There is probably no greater example of Christ-likeness
than that of selfless-giving (selflessly). I say this because "giving" can be used for very selfish reasons. The all important factor to giving is the motive for why you are giving.

Mom and Dad – Start now, today, the following:

(1) Give your child a daily or weekly task to do.
(2) Pay them what they have earned for doing the task.
(3) Teach them that on Sunday, they're to thank God by giving to Him.

In The Spirit of "Pretend" Christianity:
Do You Pretend to "Invest" in the Kingdom's Growth?

In Texas they have a saying about someone who is "all talk and no show"
– it kinda goes like this, "He's all Hat and no Cattle".

He looks good. Great boots, awesome hat,
but where's the cattle that goes along with the fashion statement?

Now you Philippians know also that… in the **beginning of the gospel**, when I departed from Macedonia, **no** (other) church shared with me concerning **giving** and **receiving** but you only. **16** For even in Thessalonica you sent **aid** once and again for my **necessities**.

"…in the **beginning of the gospel,…"**
(When you heard the word for the first time and it took root in you.)

Remember Christian those days when you first heard His word to you?

Remember how "direct" it was?
(It was like you were the only one in the room.)

Remember how "weird" you became?
(Family, friends, co-workers – all because something had happened to you.)

Remember how "involved" you were?
(You would literally take risks to obey the Lord.)

Paul is praising them for their servant-mindedness.

beginning grk: arche, ar-khay´;
at the commencement of, or at the sound of. First order of business (of when the Gospel went out). The word implies that "at the sound of the start" or we today would say, "at the sound of the starters pistol, you ran)

shared grk: koinoneo, koy-no-neh´-o;
communicate – meaning to give out, hand out, pass along, distribute with to become a "partaker" within a family. to both give and to receive as if (1) eating from the same table, (2) from the same food, (3) from the same hand. (4) by conversing with the body, soul and spirit. Unity.

giving grk: dosis, dos´-is;
to give in such a way that you are not measuring out or plotting for yourself first (1) what part is yours. (ie. one for you, two for me, one for you two for me). to give and to not look back.

receiving grk: lepsis, lape´-sis;
to accept in such a way that you are not measuring out or plotting for yourself (1) how you are going to give back, pay-back, respond in like manner.

Acts 20:35

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more **blessed** to **give** than to **receive**.' "

There is a deep soul satisfaction to know that you've made another human being "well-off" or "well-taken care of" or "happy" in their state or condition.

True giving always has this effect:
That the "right-hearted-giver" always comes out more satisfied than the receiver.

Pride makes giving and receiving hard, even embarrassing.

The Power of Giving

Puts Us Where the Action Is

1b.) It **enables** us to be faithful	vs. 16

For even in Thessalonica you sent **aid once** and **again** for my **necessities**.

necessities **grk: chreia, khri´-ah;**
destitution, lack, need

"you sent **aid once** and **again"**

Acts 20:35

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed (better for you) to give than to receive.' "

Proverbs 14:21b
He who has mercy on the poor, happy (blessed is he going to be) is he.

Proverbs 28:27a
He who gives to the poor will not lack,

Giving (worship) **enables** us to be faithful.

Mark 12:41-44
Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole (bios) livelihood."

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She was Dying to Give – Literally

Regarding the Widow's Mite = There are several things that the story of the widow's mite teaches us. First, (1) God sees what man overlooks. The other gifts in the treasury that day made a lot of noise as they jingled into the receptacles, but the widow's mites were heard in heaven. (2) Second, God's evaluation is different from man's. (3) Third, God commends giving in faith. Here was a woman in need of receiving charity, yet she had a heart to give.

Here's an awesome truth in God's economy;

If you only have a mite or you only have a million,
gods conversion method and investment return unites them all.

Giving (worship) **enables** us to be faithful.

Out There in The Foyer – Over Your Heads…

1 Chronicles 29:11-16
Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. 14 But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You. 15 For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, As were all our fathers; Our days on earth are as a shadow, And without hope. :16 "O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own.

And what of your soul today?
are you not aware of you / your consciousness,
your self-thoughts / the person of “you”

The Power Of Giving

1.) **Puts us where the action is**	vs. 14-16
1a.) It **grants** us immediate access	vs. 15
1b.) It **enables** us to be faithful	vs. 16

Luke 12:15-20

And Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” :**16** Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. **17** And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ **18** So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” ’ **20** But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

Romans 12:1-2 ESV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies bas a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. :**2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

COME TO JESUS TODAY

The Cross, The Christ, The Call

_____ End of Study _____

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