

## 22S21 Philippians 4:10-19 (Part 16) Generosity

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today I want to continue our study of Philippians with Philippians 4:10-19 (Part 16) Generosity.

Before we start, let us remember this short letter was most likely written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison in Rome. Paul had first visited Philippi during his second missionary journey, and he has great affection for the church in Philippi. This letter is sometimes called “the Joy Epistle” because of thankful and joyful tone. But remember Paul is in prison in Rome, not very happy circumstances.

I’m reading from the New King James version (NKJV) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let’s read Philippians 4:10-19 (NKJV) *<sup>10</sup>But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. <sup>11</sup>Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup>I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. <sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

**Let’s pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your word from Philippians, help us see why Paul is so thankful and joyful despite his situation. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

So, let’s break these verses down a little more. Starting with Philippians 4:10 (NKJV) *<sup>10</sup>But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.* Paul is thanking the Philippians for their generosity in supporting his needs.

But then Paul says something amazing in Philippians 4:11-13 (NKJV) *<sup>11</sup>Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup>I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Paul says he is not in need. Remember he is in a

Roman prison. It's harsh, you have to have people send you provisions or you die. The Paul explain what contentment looks like. With or without, hungry or full, free or in prison, suffering or flourishing. Paul tells us everywhere and, in all things, rejoice in Jesus Christ. Jesus strengthens you no matter what you are going through.

Paul goes on to say in Philippians 4:14-16 (NKJV)<sup>14</sup>*Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.* <sup>15</sup>*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.* <sup>16</sup>*For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.* Paul knows that the Philippians have been concerned for him. And he remembers and thanks them again for supporting him during his ministry in Macedonia. He remembers how they help provide his needs in Thessalonica. He is commending them for their generosity in the past and the present.

Paul goes on to say in Philippians 4:17-19 (NKJV)<sup>17</sup>*Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.* <sup>18</sup>*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.* <sup>19</sup>*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* Paul qualifies his comments by saying he is not seeking gifts but is commending them for helping. When we help our fellow Christian, it is pleasing to God. And Paul reminds them God supplies all. God gave them their money and things, so trust that God will continue to supply. And Paul is confident, God will supply his needs even though he is in a Roman prison.

Let's review.

- 1) Thank You? Why is Paul thanking the Philippians? They have been supporting him for years and he is very grateful for their generosity toward him.
- 2) Is Paul Comfortable? Paul is not comfortable in prison. He says he has experience hunger, hardship, suffering but he always trusts Jesus will supply what he needs. It's not about his comfort but his obedience.
- 3) Giving? This letter reminds us how important it is to be generous with what God and given us. If we share joyfully and abundantly with others, God is pleased. God will continue to supply you with what you need according to His riches. God owns everything and everybody. We can trust God with everything because He already owns everything. We can surrender control of our lives to God because He already controls our lives.

Let me leave you with this, God perspective is very different than ours. God can see the full picture of what is going on around us. God is more interested in our character than our comfort. It does not mean God wants us to experience troubles. Quite the contrary, God wants us to grow in our relationship with him. God is going to give us exactly what we need to grow closer to Him, to surrender to Him, to trust and love Him. We have a choice. Jesus or not Jesus. I choose Jesus.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for this letter from Paul. Help us to read and meditate on this letter so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us**

**to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to do what you ask and not worry about what others are doing. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

I hope you will join us for the rest of our study of Philippians. Please email me comments or feedback. Thank you for joining me today. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.