

BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS SERIES:

Joy in Christ

Philippians 4:14-23

Growing Through Giving

Lorna Wade

MICAH
COMMUNITY CHURCH



- Phil 4:14-23
- Last session in the book of Philippians
- Various themes were covered



- Opening Chapter
- **Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer**
- ³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, .



- Paul's Attitude towards his circumstances.
- To Live is Christ – To die is gain.
- Warned against false brethren
- Warned against mutilators - They were more concerned about the circumcision of the flesh, than the circumcisions of the heart.



- The blessings of brotherhood.
- Citizenship – live as citizens of heaven
- Run that we may obtain the prize
- The Secret of Contentment
- Dealing with conflict and finding Peace in Christ



- The Closing verses of the book deals with money and giving.....
- Paul was not bashful when talking about money and giving.



- Interesting Observations

- In Matt, Mark, and Luke, it is estimated that one out of every six verse, in some way deals with money.
- Of the 29 parables that Jesus told, 16 of them dealt with the person and their money



- The Bible has approximately 500 verses on the topic of prayer, fewer than 500 verses on the topic of faith, yet more than 2000 verses on money.
- Jesus taught and used more illustrations on the topic of money and possessions than all the teachings on heaven and hell combined. So, the Bible actually has a lot to say about money.



Luke 12:34

- Jesus said: "where your **treasure** is there will your **heart** be also."
- 21 ²¹ "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."
- Luke 16:13 "..you cannot serve God and money..."



Phil 4:15-17 NLT

- **15** As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then travelled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. **16** Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. **17** I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.
- **7** ... I seek the fruit that abounds to **your account**. **NKJV**



Phil 4:18-19 NLT

- **18** At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. **19** And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.



Average Giving to Church

- Average giving by adults who attend US protestant churches is \$17 a week.
- 37% of regular church attendees and Evangelicals don't give any money at all.
- 17% of American families have reduced the amount that they give to their local church.
- 7% of church goers have dropped regular giving by 20% or more.



- The first murder in Genesis was committed over an offering.
- Joseph was sold into slavery for 20 pieces of silver
- Jesus was betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver
- Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira died after lying about how much they had given to the church.



- The church at Philippi was a model church.
- They modelled what it was to really be committed to ministry and to giving sacrificially



- Jim Elliott, a missionary who was martyred in Ecuador, whilst sharing the gospel said; *"he is no fool who gives away what he cannot keep in order to gain that which he cannot lose"*.
- *Money is a tool only for this life, it has no eternal value in itself.*



2 Cor 8: 1-5 - Model Church

- The Philippian Church were a true model of generosity.
- 2 Cor 8: 1-5
- Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. ² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.
- ³ For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. ⁴ They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. ⁵ They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.



2 Cor 8:5

- They first gave themselves to the Lord,
- Then to us,
- Then they were able to give of their finances freely and joyfully.



Martin Luther (the great reformer) said

- There are three conversions that are necessary:
- The conversion of the heart
- The conversion of the mind
- The conversion of the Wallet/Purse
- Of all three, the third one is often the hardest to convert.



Mark 10:17-22

- **The Rich Young Ruler**
- **17** Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?"
- **18** So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. **19** You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honour your father and your mother.' "



- ²⁰ And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth."
- ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have **treasure in heaven**; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."
- ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.



- **Your Relationship with money has an impact on your relationship with God.**
- What is your relationship with money like?



Scriptural principles of giving

1 Kings 17

- The widow of Zarephath,
- Feeding of the 5,000
- The widow's mite...

Does our giving matter to Jesus?



Principle of Giving

Luke 6:38

- **38** Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."
- Prov 11:25
- The generous soul will be made rich,
And he who waters will also be watered himself.



Principle of Giving

- Prov 3:9
- Honour the LORD with your possessions,
And with the first fruits of all your increase;
¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty,
And your vats will overflow with new wine
- Money leaves your hand but not your life.
(sowing)



Final Greetings

Phil 4:22-23

- ²² And all the rest of God's people send you greetings, too, especially those in Caesar's household.
- ²³ May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.



- **Conclusion**

- Giving is a key part of serving. It indicates a dedicated and surrendered life.
- Giving has an effect on the giver, it has an effect on the receiver and God accepts it as a sacrificial offering, pleasing to him.
- Give according to your income lest God makes your income according to your giving.



Psalm 50: 9-14

- **9** ... I do not need the bulls from your barns or the goats from your pens.
- 10** For all the animals of the forest are mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills.
- 11** I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are mine.
- 12** If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for all the world is mine and everything in it.
- 13** Do I eat the meat of bulls?
Do I drink the blood of goats?
- 14** Make thankfulness your sacrifice to God, and keep the vows you made to the Most High.