

## ***I Can do all thing thru Christ***

### **Philippians 4:10-23**

Paul closes his letter commending the saints in Philippi for their financial support of him & the ministry. They supported him when he left Philippi for the area of Macedonia—to cities of Thessalonica & Berea Acts 17:1-13. Then Paul moved south to Achaia & they continued their support as he went to Athens & Corinth Acts 17:14-18; ch 18. But then over the years they lacked opportunity to give while they still had deep concern for him. But when Epaphroditus arrived in Rome, he brought w/ him a generous gift from the Philippian church 4:18 which spoke volumes to Paul about their love for him, the ministry & most of all for the Lord.

*10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

Their spiritual condition is the grounds for Paul's rejoicing...their gift giving is secondary. Paul is not a greedy minister, as the scandalous heretics of our day, who disgrace God & Jesus instruction on giving. Heretics of today financially molest naive & vulnerable people for their \$ in the name of God.

Believers in Philippi were concerned for the welfare of Paul & others....he rejoiced greatly *in the Lord* because now at last....after waiting & praying for them...their hearts *revived* their concern for him...as before. **We are concerned over those who once bore spiritual fruit & then quit—attendance, serving, giving, etc. *Where is so & so*....** Paul's evidence of their concern for him & the ministry was their giving--it had been 10 years since he left the church in Philippi & years since he had heard from them. Not that they had lost concern or desire to support Paul but there wasn't an opportunity.

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*Revive* is picture of plants or grass withering, about to die, yet w/ water & sunlight brings back to life *revived*. 10 years since first gift to Paul 15,16 yet Paul knew their heart...they wanted to but couldn't or unable--no opportunity. **A thing unused wastes away—muscle atrophies, idle love turns inward, w/holding giving results in selfishness.**

Paul uses a horticultural term describing a plant flowering again, a picture of the Philippian saints generous affection for him--blooming once again after lying dormant for years. **Picture my dead plant revived**

Paul's letter is not out of want because he's always *content* in Christ, **self sufficient, independent from relying on outside help** in whatever condition he's in. God supplies all my needs in Christ Jesus. Whether in humble means—**classical Grk** for river running low—*I've learned to get along*. Also to live in prosperity but it doesn't change things....I've learned to be *filled*—feed & fatten animals & go **hungry time to fast**—abundance or poverty—*I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me*. A lot or little both w/ tempt **Pr 18:1** *A rich man's wealth is his fortified city; it is like a high wall in his imagination.*

**Pr 30:8,9** *Keep deception & lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me w/ the food that is my portion, 9 Lest I be full and deny Thee & say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be in want & steal, And profane the name of my God.*

Paul knows ultimately it is the Lord that supplies & at the same time the Lord people are the suppliers—they co-laborer together.

**14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. 15 And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.**

Thessalonica a wealthy city Paul visited after he left Philippi about 100 miles away. He supported himself while the Thessalonians contributed little. **Affliction-thlipsis: tribulation**—distress, pressure, whatever constricts

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**Heavy weight upon chest**--external & internal pressure. Paul doesn't want to seem ungrateful for past gifts '*you have done well*'. Money is a tricky & controversial topic. **Old time preacher walk, run, fly Share**--to join in partnership. To Paul giving to him was of secondary importance. What was important was the profit or *increase fruit* to their account & this *before the Lord*. If Lord knows every cup cold water given....**He knows every dollar given & what it cost the giver to give**. Nothing is insignificant when done for Jesus. **Chuck later years felt he robbed the church by not stressing the blessing of giving-can't out give God but because of those who abused teaching on giving, Chuck shied away from emphasizing it, depriving his people of God's blessing in giving. Chuck very candid in saying this**

Philippi stood alone in supporting Paul, *no church shared*, no one else did, even the churches he ministered to. *Not that I seek gift but profit to your account*. **Lk 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."** Not just financial but spiritual is the primary. **Jn 6:26,27 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."** What shall we do? Believe

**Paul saying what Jesus taught 'it's more blessed to give than to receive' Acts 20:35 Matt 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth & rust destroy, & where thieves break in & steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, & where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

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F B Meyer--Give & Receive... is a constant law of God's world. "Give, & it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall be given into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." ([Lk 6:38](#)) Lend your boat for a whole afternoon to Christ that it may be His floating pulpit, and He will return it to you laden w/ fish. Place your upper room at His disposal for a single meal, & He will fill it & the whole house w/ the Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Place in His hands your barley loaves & fish, & He will not only satisfy your hunger, but add twelve baskets full of fragments. The Philippians sent three or four presents to a suffering & much needing servant of God, & from that moment they might reckon that every need of theirs would be supplied. Such small acts on our part are recompensed w/ such vast returns. We scratch the surface of the soil & insert our few little seeds, & w/in a few months the acreage is covered by a prolific harvest in which a hundredfold is given for every grain which we seemed to throw away.

***18 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. 19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.***

Paul lacks for nothing & would never be a burden on the saints even when he had nothing. Paul's *fullness* is first their spiritual wellbeing, how they were doing in the Lord, after that the *gifts given* were secondary & fruit to their account, indication of maturity. *Fragrant aroma* an allusion to temple incense when burned as prayer offering to Lord fragrance filled the city..

***20 Now to our God and Father be the 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, especially those of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.***

Those w/ Paul greet the saints in Philippi, Timothy, Epaphroditus as well as converts in Caesar's household, soldiers, cooks, food tasters, musicians, stablemen, shepherds, iron smiths, builder, etc..

Paul ends his letter as he began it w/ the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

***FB Meyers It is impossible to define all that is meant by this comprehensive prayer. Illumination for the soul, love for the heart, strength for the mind, purity for the character, help in every time of need, direction in all perplexity and difficulty--all these are included in the word grace.***

But it is a word, a wish & prayer to saturate the Christian life which blesses and cheers us on, it strengthens & consoles in trying times & leads us to glorify God as an expression of joyful confidence in the Christian life.