

There's Profit in Giving

Philippians 4:15-23

How generously the Philippian Church gives, 15-16

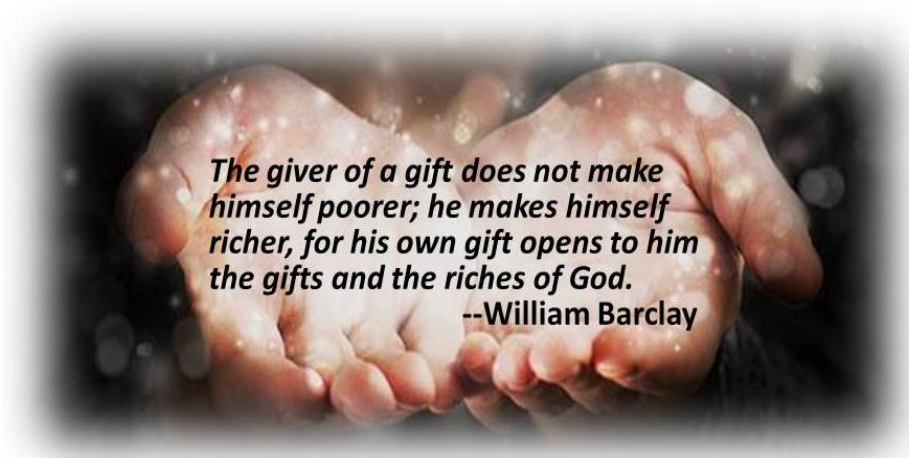
- ◆Philippian support for Paul was unique, II Cor. 8:1-6, 11:8,9, Acts 18:5.
- ◆*From the first preaching* recalls 1:5. For 10 years they've helped Paul.

Why it's important to be generous givers, 17-19

- ◆Another qualification / disclaimer as in 10-12—I'm not seeking more!!!
- ◆Another reason here for Paul's gratitude for their gift:
 - 4:10—Paul is grateful for their concern for him.
 - 4:17—Paul is grateful for the credit toward their account, II Cor. 9:5-11.
- ◆Commercial imagery: *profit / increase / account / received in full*
profit = (lit. *fruit*) recall 1:22—work that pays off
When is the payoff? See 2:16, 4:1, II Cor. 4:17
- ◆Sacrificial imagery: *fragrant aroma / acceptable sacrifice / pleasing to God, 2:17, Gen. 8:21, Eph. 5:2, Heb. 13:15*
- ◆Although Paul can't reciprocate in kind, in v. 19 he assures them / us that God will assume responsibility for reciprocation so as to meet all our needs in a manner befitting God's wealth (riches in glory).
- ◆What does this mean and not mean about our giving to ministry?

Glory to God / Greetings to believers / Grace to the Church, 20-23

- ◆Paul breaks out in a brief praise as in Gal. 1:5, I Tim. 1:17, Rom. 16:27.
- ◆Greetings are encouraged and given. Caesar's house = civil servants.
- ◆Grace-benediction (Gal. 6:18, Eph. 6:24) = wishing grace upon them.



The giver of a gift does not make himself poorer; he makes himself richer, for his own gift opens to him the gifts and the riches of God.

--William Barclay