

## GOD'S WISDOM & WARNINGS REGARDING WHO YOU SHOULD FINANCIALLY SUPPORT Pt. 4

### A. God Wants You to Wisely Use the Money and/or Financial Resources He provides You ...

1. **ULTIMATELY**, to **HONOR THE LORD** by being a wise and faithful **STEWARD** of everything He has given you. (Prov. 3:9; 1 Chronicles 29:11-14; Deut. 8:17-18; 1 Cor. 4:2)
2. **SPECIFICALLY...**

### B. God Wants You to Exercise **BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT** When Supporting Individuals, Local Churches and Christian Ministries regarding ...

1. **WHO** you **SHOULD** financially support? {Hear God's wisdom!}
  - a. Start with your own doctrinally sound local church **PASTOR(S)** and **TEACHER(S)** who spiritually feed and lead you. You should financially support your pastor{s} & Bible teacher{s}
    - 1) Because those who are involved & faithful in "full-time" ministry are **ENABLED** to do so by the grace-giving of believers & are **DESERVING** of this financial support as a reward for their labors. (1 Tim. 5:17-18)
    - 2) Because those who are being **TAUGHT THE WORD OF GOD** are commanded to help bear their teacher's burdens & express appreciation for their teaching by choosing to **SHARE** all good things **WITH THEIR TEACHER**. (Gal. 6:6)
  - b. Include also, if possible, doctrinally sound \_\_\_\_\_ that clearly preach the Gospel, evangelize the lost, establish believers, plant churches, etc. You should you financially support doctrinally sound missionaries and ministries ...
    - 1) Because it was the widespread **NEW TESTAMENT PERSPECTIVE** to expect to be financially supported in & for ministry. (1 Cor. 9:1-6)
    - 2) Because it is a **UNIVERSAL PRACTICE** for a person to expect to be supported & rewarded in various realms of life and labor.
    - 3) Because it has **OLD TESTAMENT PRECEDENCE** for God's servants to be supported for their labor by those who they ministered to. (9:8-10a)
    - 4) Because of the **SOWING & REAPING PRINCIPLE**. (9:11-12a)
    - 5) Because it is a **TRANSDISPENSATIONAL PRACTICE & PRINCIPLE**, even commanded by the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**. (9:13-18; Luke 10:7; 1 Tim. 5:18) What word is mentioned in vs. 12-18? Why is this emphasized? How important is this to you? See 1 Corinthians 1:17-25!
    - 6) Because we \_\_\_\_\_ when we support the furtherance of the Gospel by supporting those who are preaching it. (Phil. 4:14-16) Remember the general & specific context!

**Nevertheless** {ties to vs.10-13}, **you** {plural - team ministry; though Paul remembered the importance of God's strength in all he did, he also recognized that God uses human instruments to accomplish divine ends} \_\_\_\_\_ {and not merely intended to do it; this is a commendation and expression of gratitude; this is true when you support those missionaries who preach the Gospel, etc.} **that you** \_\_\_\_\_ {sunkoinoneo - shared together, jointly participated in supporting me} **in my distress** {alleviating his financial distress, suffering affliction, hardship}. **Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of** \_\_\_\_\_ {his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary trip - Acts 16ff; used 9x in Philippians -1:5,7,12,16,27{2x},2:22, 4:3, 4:15}, **when I departed from Macedonia** {Acts 17:14}, **no** {other local} **church** \_\_\_\_\_ **with me** {koinoneo - partnered with Paul for the furtherance of the Gospel by financial support - 1:5} **concerning** {using accounting terms as they invested in what eternally

matters & God is keeping records concerning their acts of ... } **giving** {grace-giving, which they did toward Paul} **and** {his acts of} **receiving** {though he never asked for support but also did not refuse their giving as a church like he did at Corinth} **but you** {emphatic} **only** {supported me. Paul doesn't say this to puff them up or put others down, or to encourage a judgmental spirit and competition toward others, but to simply acknowledge his great appreciation for their care & support toward him as each church must decide who, what, and how much they will give as unto the Lord. However, there is an implicit critique that is regrettable. Paul did accept support from other churches at times - 2 Cor. 11:8} **16 For even in Thessalonica** {95 miles from Philippi where opposition and persecution became fierce - Acts 17:1-10, 1 Thess. 2:1-9} **you** \_\_\_\_\_ {pempo - used oftentimes to send or supply aid to someone to fulfill a specific mission - Eph. 6:22, Phil. 2:19, 23, 25, 28; Romans 15:24; 1 Cor. 16:6, 11; Tit. 3:13} **once and again for my necessities.** {to alleviate his physical needs of the basics as a suffering apostolic missionary, though Paul still needed & chose to work - 2 Thess. 3:6-10.} What is amazing about is that this was a young and poverty-stricken church, yet they gave generously as motivated & enabled by God's grace with joy & reliance on the Lord. What can we learn from this?

**7) Because supporting missionaries / ministries that preach the Gospel will involve present spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ & future \_\_\_\_\_ at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Phil. 4:17)**

**Not that I seek the gift** {itself; this was not his motive, and he is not subtly fishing for more support though it met a financial need to which he was grateful}, **but** {what really} **I seek** {is} **the** \_\_\_\_\_ {the fruit of the Holy Spirit now and a profitable return for you on your financial investment of supporting me & the Gospel} **that abounds** {abounds or is being credited with compound interest} **to your** {your, not Paul's} **account** {the records God is keeping for the Judgment Seat of Christ}. What can we learn from this?

**8) Because we are privileged to be used as an \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord to support His work of building His Church, though He does not need us. (Phil. 4:18a)**

**Indeed, I have** {presently} **all** {that I need} **and abound** {more than I need; full to the brim, reinforcing that he is not trying to get them to give more; it is an expression of friendship & gratitude}. **I am full** {how?}, {by} **having received** {as Paul did accept financial gifts if there were no strings attached and it did not hinder the Gospel} \_\_\_\_\_ **Epaphroditus** {2:25-30 - human instrument #2 - he brought it to Rome} **the things** {substantial physical & financial aid/gifts} **sent** \_\_\_\_\_ **you** {human instrument #1 - in Philippi}. What can we learn from this?

**9) Because God will consider our grace-giving to be an \_\_\_\_\_ as an act of worship that is \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. (Phil. 4:18b)**

**a sweet-smelling** \_\_\_\_\_, **an** \_\_\_\_\_, {which is} \_\_\_\_\_ **to Him.** {God the Father - he uses OT terms that should remind us of the first 3 Levitical offerings (Lev. 1-3) which were voluntarily given out of love and thanksgiving as unto the Lord (2 Cor. 8:5) & were considered a sweet or pleasant aroma, inhaled favorably in the nostrils of God, as it conformed to His will.} What can we learn from this?

**10) Because it gives us an opportunity to further learn to \_\_\_\_\_ to meet our needs while grace-giving in doing God's will. (Phil. 4:19; 2 Cor. 9:8)**

**And** {notice how this promise connects with the previous verses on grace-giving in supporting missions} **my** \_\_\_\_\_ {He is the Ultimate Resource who has repeatedly taken care of me in doing His will} \_\_\_\_\_ {fully supply; future, active, indicative - this is God's promise} **all your need** {spiritually or physically, not some needs, nor all your wants, as He knows your every need - Matt. 6:25-34; 1 Tim. 6:8; 4:13} \_\_\_\_\_ {kata - on the basis of or in keeping with} \_\_\_\_\_ {God's abundant grace provisions to do His will - 4:10-13} **in glory by** {or in or through} **CHRIST JESUS.** What can we learn from this?

**11) Because God is \_\_\_\_\_ by accomplishing all of this. (Phil. 4:20)**

**Now to our God and Father** {the normal provider in a family} **be** \_\_\_\_\_ {glory, honor, worship, or praise which He rightfully deserves for His grace, mercy, faithfulness, etc. toward us. How long should we do this?} \_\_\_\_\_ {into the ages of ages forever. Do you agree?} \_\_\_\_\_. What can we learn from this?