



<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.

**Main Idea:** The fact that the apostle would have been content without the Philippians' gift didn't make him less thankful for the gift or for them, but on the contrary much more thankful! This is because his contentment comes from treasuring Christ above all, and the gift was evidence of the work of Christ in them, a reminder of the fellowship in Christ that they shared, and a means by which the gospel of Christ would advance and the glory of Christ in them would be displayed.

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

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Philippians chapter 4. Verses 14 through 17. Let's pray as we come to God's word. Our father. How we thank you that he who has the eternal never lasting object of your love and delight your own son, you have made him to be also. Now the object of our love and delight by your spirit even as you can form us to his image so that we love and delighting you as well.

Our father and that spirit, whom we love and enjoy. Just as you father and son have with him reigned and lived from our lasting and will unto everlasting, to the extent, to whatever extent the Lord. Jesus is not are joy, Lord. The fault is ours and we're thankful for your grace and we're thankful for the guarantee that you will finish the work that you have begun and we're thankful.

Now, as we come to your word for the part of that working in us that you have a set apart for planned for this afternoon and these verses we pray for your spirit to work powerfully and apply your word to us. We pray that he would produce in us more delight in Jesus.

So that the thankfulness even about which we read and seek to hear by your help, will be one that you reproduce in our hearts, and our minds unto, your great glory, and our great good, which we ask in Jesus name. Amen, Philippians 4 versus 14 through 17. These are God's words.

Never the last. You have done well, that you share and my distress. 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 for even in Thessalonica, you sent aid once and again, from my necessities, not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account thus far, God's inspired and an errant words.

Well, if someone was not familiar with treasuring Christ above all and you did not have in common with them delight in him, delight in his gracious work to lighten, his glorious gospel and they gave you something and you sent to them. A, thank you, note. That said, thank you.

I didn't really feel any need at all for what you sent. I was quite content without it and I would have been quite content. If you didn't send it, that could be received, wrongly. But the apostle, basically, having said something to that effect in the portion that we had by God's help last week.

Now reminds them of what he already knew. They knew, but reminds them that his delight in their giving for his necessities. The Lord has made us material as well as spiritual beings and we have necessities and he's taught us. Even in that example, prayer. He's given us to pray for daily bread and to receive then every day's worth of bread as God's answer to prayer.

And so he doesn't take away from the fact that they're necessities. He says it in verse 16, for even in Thessalonica, you sent aide once and again for my necessities. And yet, what he's emphasizing to them is that their gift was infinitely, more meaningful because of its spiritual character, even above, also the good physical, the physical good that God has done him through them.

So he starts by saying never the less you have done well that you share in my distress. So he is saying, you know, you know that being content with Christ that I've just been talking about. I recognize that one of the reasons you've been generous with me is your content with Christ too.

And so you said, well, Paul is lacking some things that he really could use, he really needs. He's in distress, we might not have been abundance, but we can have distress too and so they send him some of what they have. In fact, you remember when Paul is writing to the Corinthians and asking them to give for the church in Judea here first to what the Macedonians had done that they were actually poor and they were in the midst of a trial but their poverty.

In their affliction overflowed in generosity, giving for the collection to be sent to Judea. So this is actually something that we have in multiple places that God does in us that being content with Christ as all. And hearing about a brother who has need, we have no problem making ourselves somewhat needy and we call it, we have a word for that, right?

We call it sacrificial, giving it imitates, what our Lord Jesus has done, and he's actually going to talk about that a little bit. And the passage that Lord willing, we hope to have next week, will give you one costion on that. And that is, if you are a husband or a father, you have a household that has been entrusted to your care.

You may do sacrificial giving so long as your household is the first people. You give to you, may not sacrifice your household for someone else. God says that the one who doesn't take care of his own house, has denied the faith and as worse than an unbeliever. So while you may lead your family in sacrificing together and mutually, enjoy treasuring Christ, you may not remove from your family that which is needful unto them and expect them to be happy that you sacrificially gave that is not how that works in leading your house but the Philippians were glad to share his distress.

They have done well, they have done good. It's something that imitates imitates, Christ himself as the apostle has already reminded them from chapter 2, that this is what Jesus has done for us. Humbled himself to the form of a bondservant being found appeared in a man, humbled himself even to death and that on the cross.

And that's where believers considering one another is steaming, when another above themselves and having regard not only, for their own needs. But one another's comes from, and so, you can see how the model of Christ in chapter two and the apostles delighting in, Jesus himself, in chapter three and the apostles, delighting in the work that Jesus has begun in them.

Making the Philippians to be like Christ in chapter one, how all of that is coming together now, and he's not saying I'm less thankful than I might have been because I was content, without the gift, he saying, the gift itself is evidence. Substantial evidence material, evidence of something infinitely, greater than the material itself.

And so this is an actually this is actually heightening his thankfulness. Nevertheless, you have done well that you shared in my distress and, and he points out that this isn't the first time they have done this. 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 very interesting that he would call it the beginning of the gospel. Yeah, the Philippians were actually Philippi was not a place that he visited on his first missionary journey in. It was one of the middle or even mid to late churches that he planted and yet there's something that happened when the gospel comes somewhere and the church is established.

That's the beginning of that church. As evangelistic ministry, every church should be of evangelistic church. Every church should be a church. Planting church, every church should be a missionary sending church. And so he refers to a moment not in the history of the church generally. But the Philippian church specifically that when Paul was leaving from Phillipi, that was their first chance to be sending the apostle somewhere else and having understood what God had done and bringing the gospel to them, they were excited to, to give and to send the gospel to send the apostle by whatever means God enabled them to send him to someone else.

And at that time, thank God. That he had done that work in them because no other churches were helping, you know, antioxidant Paul and Silas to fill up. I but when he was going to Thessalonica wasn't sending to Paul who was just the Philippian church and he says, in God's in God's providence to me in the relationships that that the apostle had with that.

With that particular congregation, there was a time in a season of his ministry, which they were the only ones left supporting him. Now most of you have not been missed areas ministers but if you had gone through a season where support tailed off but there was that one church that stuck with you.

You can imagine the Christian affection and having stuck together and then the Lord blessed the work and other churches got planted. And you can remember, you have in your mind's eye, those people who are converted in Thessalonica in part because God had planned that the way he would sustain you.

At that time, was keeping the Philippian giving going keeping the Philippian giving coming. And so he's

rejoicing over, they're sharing with him and his distress. He's reminding them that this is part of the, the mutual Christian fellowship and working together and in the spread of the gospel that that they have had.

And then he says not that, I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that a bounds to your account. So he's saying, I see something that Christ has done in you and I rejoice over that and I trust that just as he did before with Thessalonica that what you have sent dear Philippians, the Lord is going to bless and he is going to extend his church more and other churches will be planted in the and the gospel will advance.

And I'm looking forward to you having a place of honor there, in in what God does with that as well. And there's more that we can say about that. But that's there's a transition to the next verse. And we'll will save it next week. So if you want if you want to have a thankfulness for one another and two, one another that is multiplied, treasuring Christ above all.

So that when we give to one another, it's received from the other not just in the gift itself but in what Christ has done in them to bring it to you and you know that the blessedness of the gift isn't so much that that it satisfies a need for you although it does but that God is going to be the one who blesses the usefulness of it in the fruit of it unto his glory and your life and the more that you walk with him and aim it has glory the more that will abound to the credit of those who helped you in it.

So this treasuring Christ and living for his glory is a means by which we we don't say well we're content with nothing. So were a bunch of yeah. Monks who enjoy the pain when we whip ourselves? And I really wish they hadn't sent me stuff because now I'm not as impoverished as I was before.

No, we don't love the poverty, we treasure Christ himself and that should actually multiply the thankfulness with which we receive from one another. And the eagerness that we have to see what God will do with what he has given us by means of our brother and our sister with him, we have this fellowship in the gospel and the Lord grant that our treasuring Christ would be increased, that we would be willing to share in one another's, distress by participating, in the poverty to whatever extent, he makes us able and that he would multiply our thankfulness by means of that contentment and that treasuring of Christ.

Let's ask him to do that. Our father in heaven were so grateful to you for giving us your word in various types of literature, including this letter from the apostle to the church in Phillipi. So that we might have this sample of what it looks like. As you can form different believers to Christ to your son, and the joy, and the gratitude, and the fellowship that this gave him with the Philippians.

We pray, Lord that you would give us joy and fellowship in giving and receiving and in Christ's treasuring thankfulness, not only with one another in our congregation, but with others him, we can send and other church planting and gospel, spreading mission work. And which we could participate that this kind of thankfulness would be increased among us among them.

And among those whom they reach all into your glory. As you give us the privilege of participating in your work. We praise you. Oh God for you, are the great missionary. You sent your son out of love for us that the world through him might be saved. And we ask it all in his name, a man.