

Philippians iv.14-19

First RPC Durham

I. Giving and receiving in the work of ministry (vv 14-16)

- A.** Christians are to share in the suffering of faithful ministry (v 14).
- 1)** Faithful ministry will often lead to distress
 - a)** The example of Christ (Jn 15:18)
 - b)** Other examples in Scripture (2 Cor 11:23-28, Heb 11:36-38)
 - 2)** Christians share in suffering that comes from faithful ministry
- B.** Often, only few are willing to truly share in such ministry (v 15a).
- 1)** Explanation of Text
 - 2)** Obstacles to being willing to suffer and sacrifice
 - a)** Ignorance of the work that needs to be done
 - b)** Complacency in spiritual state
 - c)** Comfort in the things of the world
 - d)** Fear of man
- C.** The Christian's involvement in ministry: giving & receiving (v 15b)
- 1)** The Aspect of Giving
 - a)** The elders' giving
 - b)** The congregant's giving: Time, Talent and Treasure
 - c)** The Lord's giving
 - 2)** The Aspect of Receiving
 - a)** The elders' receiving
 - b)** The congregant's receiving
 - c)** The Lord's receiving
 - 3)** The Christian's Disposition (Acts 20:35)
- D.** We are to be generous in our support of ministry, even when we are not directly involved or benefiting from it ourselves (v 16)
- 1)** Explanation of Text (2 Thes 3:8-9)
 - 2)** Ongoing applications:
 - a)** Principle of connectional ecclesiology rooted in Scripture.
 - b)** Supporting the missions and ministries of the RPCNA

II. The Lord delights in our obedience (vv 17-18).

- A.** Faithful shepherds do not seek to feed off the sheep (v 17a, 18).
- 1)** Unfaithful shepherds feed off the sheep (Ezk 34:8)
 - 2)** The example of Christ (Eph 5:25)

- 3)** Instruction for faithful elders
 - a)** Feed the sheep
 - b)** Be content in all things
 - 4)** Warning to the flock against unfaithful elders
- B.** Sacrificial giving is a proper fruit of the Christian life (v 17b)
- 1)** As obedient to God's Word
 - 2)** As evidence of a changed heart
 - 3)** As evidence of a changed affection (Mt 6:20-21)
- C.** The Lord knows our sacrifices and giving for His Kingdom (v 17b)
- 1)** Not that our works merit or add to our salvation. But that the Lord does encourage the obedience of His people and grows us through that obedience.
 - 2)** Application: Abound in sacrificial obedience (2 Cor 8:7-8)
- D.** The Church is to share in her gifts with others (v 18a).
- 1)** The church in Philippi sent Epaphroditus (2:25).
 - 2)** Application: sending elders to other congregations to minister
- E.** The Lord delights in our obedience (v 18b).
- 1)** Our obedience is only acceptable because we have first been accepted in Christ. (2 Cor 2:15)
 - 2)** Good works only come from those who are in Christ.
 - 3)** We may be encouraged that the Lord delights in our obedience.

III. God's promise concerning His faithful people (v 19).

- A.** God is the giver of every good gift.
- B.** God knows our needs, and will provide accordingly (Mal 3:10)
- C.** God gives out of the abundance of His glory (Psa 50:10-11)
- D.** God gives out of the abundance of His grace (2 Cor 8:9, Psa 112:9)
- E.** Uses from the Text
- 1)** Be content with what God has provided for you and your household (1 Tim 6:6)
 - 2)** Use that which God has provided for His glory (Psa 112:4)
 - 3)** Be ready to sacrifice and be the means God uses to supply the needs of others (Psa 20:2)
 - 4)** Trust in God's grace, not your riches (Psa 49:7-8)