

INTRODUCTION.

AS WE KNOW, ~ IN PHIL. ~ 4: ~ 10-20, ~ PAUL ADDS A THANK-YOU NOTE ~ TO THE church in Philippi ~ for the financial gifts they sent to him.

▶▶ Last week, ~ we spent our time looking at [verses 10-13](#).

▶▶ And today, ~ we'll take up the remainder of Paul's thank-you note, ~ [verses 14-20](#).

▶▶ And we will be spending the bulk of our time on [verse 14](#). ⇨⇨ Ok, ~ let's dig in.

IN VERSE 14 ~ PAUL REPEATS ~ HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GIFTS. ~~~ "YET IT was kind of you ~ to share my trouble."

IN VIEW OF PAUL'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD HAVING PLENTY OR LITTLE, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ the believers in Philippi ~ might have wondered ~ if they should have bothered ~ to send him the gift.

▷▷ Paul hastened to add that ~ it was good of them to send it.

▷▷ And he probably did not want them to think ~ that he didn't actually want or need the gift, ~ or that he was ungrateful. ~~~ So Paul repeated his appreciation.

WE CAN NOTE HERE THAT PAUL ~ WAS A THANKFUL PERSON.

▶▶ But Paul was not just thankful for the gifts.

▶▶ Recall at the beginning of our study of Philippians, ~ we noted that Paul ~ continually gave thanks for his fellow believers. ¶¶ 1/13

▶▶ And as we said then, ~ and it bears repeating ~ because it's so important, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ if you think about it, ~ this is the attitude that we should have toward all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

↪↪ We should thank God for them ~ and always be thankful for them.

▶▶ And to once again quote ~ that little poem.

▷▷ "to dwell above with saints we love, ~ will certainly be glory; ~ to dwell below with saints we know, ~ that's another story!"

↪↪ That's true sometimes, ~ isn't it . . . . .

▶▶ But Paul sets the example for us. ~ We are to continually give thanks for our fellow believers.

▶▶ As we saw before, ~ David weighs in on this as well.

▷▷ In Ps. 16: ~ 3, ~ he says, ~ "As for the saints in the land, ~ they are the excellent ones, ~ in whom is all my delight."

▷▷ Like David, ~ we should have the attitude that our brothers and sisters in Christ "are the excellent ones," ~ and take pleasure in them and enjoy their company.

SO, ~ IN VERSE 14, ~ PAUL REPEATS HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GIFTS THEY SENT.

▶▶ Now, ~ Paul tells us in 2 Cor., ~ that God ~ loves a cheerful giver.

▶▶ We should note here ~ that along with being ~ a thankful ~ receiver ~ of these gifts sent by the Philippians, ~ Paul ~ was also ~ a cheerful ~ receiver.

▶▶ Remember ~ that Paul was content ~ no matter what his financial situation was ~ and could endure any financial situation through Jesus.

▷▷ But Paul ~ thankfully ~ and cheerfully ~ accepted their gifts. ¶¶ 2/13

▶▶ Perhaps we can safely say ~ that ~ God loves ~ a cheerful receiver ~ as well as ~ a cheerful giver.

▶▶ Believers, ~ I would contend, ~ need to cultivate being cheerful receivers.

▶▶ But, ~ I believe ~ that this is not necessarily ~ an easy task.

▷▷ Sinful pride comes into play.

↪↪ Or ~ we don't want to seem weak or needy. ~ Or ~ we're embarrassed by our situation.

▷▷ But we need to get over that.

▶▶ And remember ~ that the Scriptures tell us ~ that God opposes the proud ~ but gives grace to the humble.

▶▶ And, ~ furthermore, ~ we need to learn to be genuinely, ~ we don't want to just pretend we're cheerful, ~ ↴↴

▷▷ we need to learn to be genuinely, ~ cheerful ~ and thankful ~ receivers.

BACK TO VERSE 14 AGAIN. ~ PAUL TELLS THEM ~ THAT IT WAS KIND OF THEM TO share his trouble.

▶▶ I want to focus on that word "trouble" for a few minutes.

▶▶ I think it would be a good idea ~ to remind ourselves ~ that Paul was a prisoner, ~ chained to a Roman guard.

▷▷ Recall that Paul had said that his imprisonment ~ was for Christ.

▷▷ Paul was not in prison ~ because he was a criminal. ~ He was not ~ a political prisoner.

▷▷ He was in prison ~ simply because ~ he was a servant of and preached about ~ Jesus. ~ Well, ~ that doesn't seem right or fair. ↴↴ 3/13

▶▶But, ~ that is exactly what Jesus told us to expect, ~ hatred from the world and persecution.

▷▷Jn. ~ 15: ~ 18-20a. ~ If the world hates you, ~ know ~ that it has hated me ~ before it hated you. ~ ~ ¶¶

↪↪If you were of the world, ~ the world would love you as its own; ~ but because you are not of the world, ~ but I chose you out of the world, ~ therefore ~ the world hates you. ~ ~ ¶¶

→→Remember the word that I said to you: ~ 'A servant is not greater than his master.' ~ If [or, ~ since] ~ they persecuted me, ~ they will also persecute you.

▷▷And Jn. ~ 16: ~ 33. ~ I have said these things to you, ~ that in me ~ you may have peace. ~ In the world you will have tribulation. ~ But take heart; ~ I have overcome the world.

▶▶Peter, ~ present when Jesus spoke those words ~ says this ~ in 1 Pet. ~ 4: ~ 12, ~ ¶¶

▷▷"Beloved, ~ do not be surprised ~ at the fiery trial ~ when it comes upon you ~ to test you, ~ as though ~ something strange ~ were happening to you."

▶▶John, ~ also present at the time Jesus spoke, ~ reinforces Peter's point. ~ 1 Jn. ~ 3:13. ~ "Do not be surprised, ~ brothers, ~ that the world hates you."

## PAUL WAS IN PRISON, ~ ENDURING HARDSHIP.

▶▶And these believers ~ were not ~ only fair-weather friends, ~ who abandoned Paul at the first sign of trouble or hardship.

▷▷And they did not become discouraged ~ because of opposition to the gospel.

▶▶Recall from Philipians, ~ chapter 2, ~ ¶¶

▷▷Paul's imprisonment ~ produced within the majority of believers in Rome ~ ¶¶

↪↪a greater confidence in the Lord, ~ and subsequently, ~ a greater boldness to preach the gospel. ¶¶ 4/13

▶▶It seems ~ that it had a similar effect ~ on the believers in Philippi. ⇨⇨ Rather than be discouraged, ~ or fearful, ~ they boldly sent financial gifts to Paul.

IT'S INTERESTING ~ HOW THE BELIEVERS IN ROME AND IN PHILIPPI ~ responded ~ to Paul's imprisonment ~ isn't it?

RATHER THAN DIMINISH THEIR CONFIDENCE, ~ WHICH WOULD SEEM LOGICAL, ~ AND quite human, ~ ¶¶

▶▶it actually ~ increased ~ their confidence in the Lord.

▶▶One might think ~ that the imprisonment of a prominent leader in the early church ~ would have caused other believers ~ to become discouraged and fearful.

▷▷But, ~ the ~ exact opposite ~ happened.

▶▶When the apostles were arrested for the second time by the Jewish council, ~ recorded in Acts ~ 5, ~ we read this in verses 40-42.

▷▷"and when they had called in the apostles, ~ they beat them ~ and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, ~ and let them go. ~~ ¶¶

⇨⇨Then they left the presence of the council, ~ . . . ~ rejoicing ~ that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ~~ ¶¶

→→And every day, ~ in the temple and from house to house, ~ they did not cease teaching and preaching ~ that the Christ is Jesus."

▶▶The exact opposite of what we might expect. ~~ Might expect a response of fearfulness, ~~ instead, ~ they responded with fearlessness. ⇨⇨ Why such a response?

WELL, ~ WE'RE GIVEN AT LEAST ~ TWO CLUES ~ IN THE NT ~ THAT POINT ~ ¶¶

▶▶to why ~ we see the opposite response by these believers ~ to opposition than we might expect. ¶¶ 5/13

▶▶ Two clues ~ that show us, ~ believers here at NHCC, ~ how we too ~ can respond to opposition ~ with ~ fearlessness ~ instead of fearfulness.

THE FIRST CLUE ~ IS FOUND IN THE ACCOUNT OF THE APOSTLES' FIRST ARREST, ~ recorded in Acts ~ 4.

▶▶ Acts ~ 4: ~ 13. ~ "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, ~ and perceived ~ that they were uneducated, ~ common men, ~ they were astonished. ~ ~ 77

▷▷ And they recognized ⇨⇨ [here comes the 1<sup>st</sup> clue] ~ that they had been with Jesus.

▶▶ They walked ~ with him. ~~~ They talked ~ with him. ~~~ They were taught ~ by him. ~~~ They were empowered ~ by him.

▶▶ In brief, ~ their eyes ~ and ~ their minds ~ and their lives ~ were firmly focused ~ on Jesus.

▷▷ And that ~ is why ~ they could respond ~ with fearlessness ~ and not ~ with fearfulness.

▶▶ My . . . , ~ are you, ~ and I ask myself this as well, ~ are you walking with the Savior ~ every day?

▷▷ Are you talking with him ~ every day?

↳↳ Are you being taught by him through his word ~ every day?

→→ Are you asking him ~ and allowing him ~ to empower you ~ every day?

▶▶ In brief, ~ are your ~ eyes ~ and minds ~ and lives ~ firmly focused on Jesus?

▶▶ Our answers to these questions ~ will determine ~ whether we respond ~ 77

▷▷ with fearlessness ~ or ~ with fearfulness ~ when we experience opposition from the world. 77 6/13

## THE SECOND CLUE ~ IS FOUND IN HEB. ~ 10: ~ 34b.

▶▶ "and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property ~ [the total opposite of human nature], ~ ¶¶

▷▷ [and here's the 2<sup>nd</sup> clue] ~ since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one."

▶▶ Loved ones, ~ what were these believers focused on? ~ The temporary ~ or ~ the eternal?

▷▷ The answer's obvious. ~ We could say that they had ~ a cosmic vision/perspective.

↳↳ It looks like they viewed life ~ through the grid ~ of eternity and God's eternal plan ~ ¶¶

→→ and not through the grid ~ of the temporary ~ here-and-now.

▶▶ Abraham had the same perspective. ~ Heb. ~ 11: ~ 10. ⇔⇔ "By faith ~ he went to live in the land of promise, ~ as in a foreign land, ~ living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, ~ heirs with him of the same promise. ~ For he was looking forward ~ to the city that has foundations, ~ whose designer and builder is God."

▶▶ Paul tells us that "what can be seen is temporary, ~ but what cannot be seen is eternal."

▶▶ They viewed life through the grid ~ of eternity and God's eternal plan.

▶▶ Recall from Ephesians, ~ we learned that, ~ before he created the universe, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ God planned to bring ~ all things, ~ all beings, ~ all creatures ~ everyone ~ and everything ~ ¶¶

↳↳ in heaven ~ and on earth ~ under the authority and leadership of Jesus.

▷▷ And we can rest assured ~ that this will happen, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ because God's plans ~ cannot be thwarted ~ and are always fulfilled. ¶¶ 7/13

▷▷ And God's plan, ~ that Jesus will have the rule and authority over all, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ will be put into effect ~ when the eras of human history ~ have run their course, ~ a time and date ~ known only to God.

▶▶ These early believers ~ viewed life ~ ¶¶

▷▷ through the grid ~ of eternity and God's eternal plan ~ and not ~ through the grid ~ of the temporary here-and-now.

↳↳ And that ~ is why ~ they could respond to opposition ~ with fearlessness ~ and not ~ with fearfulness.

▶▶ My . . . , ~ how are you viewing life, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ through the grid ~ of eternity and God's eternal plan ~ or ~ through the grid ~ of the temporary here-and-now?

↳↳ Our answer to this question ~ will determine ~ whether we respond ~ ¶¶

→→ with fearlessness ~ or ~ with fearfulness ~ to the world's opposition to us.

AS WE NOTED, ~ WE WOULD SPEND ~ THE BULK OF OUR TIME ON VS. 14. ~ Now let's briefly consider the rest of Paul's thank-you note.

IN VERSES 15-16, ~ HE RECOUNTS THE CHURCH IN PHILIPPI'S previous generosity.

WE DISCUSSED THEIR GENEROSITY IN CHAPTER 1. ~ AND WE SAID THAT ~ this church ~ stands as a model ~ for all other churches for generosity.

VERSE 17. ~ NOT THAT I SEEK THE GIFT, ~ BUT I SEEK THE FRUIT THAT increases to your credit.

▶▶ Paul sought the benefit that came to the believers in the church at Philippi ~ more ~ than the gift itself. ¶¶ 8/13



▶▶ We need to understand ~ that our financial support of our fellow believers ~ not only benefits them, ~ it also benefits us.

▶▶ Every gift ~ is an investment ~ in our heavenly bank account.

▷▷ When we invest in God's work, ~ it looks like he keeps a record. ~~ And he credits our account.

↪↪ And most likely, ~ he doesn't just keep track ~ of what we give, ~ ¶¶

→→ but also ~ of the good that is done with our money ~ and the lives that are touched through our gifts.

▶▶ In Matt. ~ 6: ~ 19-21, ~ Jesus said, ~ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, ~ where moth and rust destroy ~ and where thieves break in and steal, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ but lay up for yourselves ~ treasures in heaven, ~ where neither moth nor rust destroys ~ and where thieves do not break in and steal. ~~ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

↪↪ Giving to God's work and God's people ~ is one way of storing up treasures in heaven.

NOTICE IN VERSE 18 ~ THAT PAUL REFERS TO THEIR GIFT AS AN OFFERING, ~ A sacrifice.

OF COURSE, ~ WE ARE NOT UNDER THE OT SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM.

▶▶ However, ~ we still offer sacrifices, ~~ but not animal sacrifices, ~ and not for the forgiveness of sin.

▶▶ We offer, ~ what Peter in 1 Peter calls ~ spiritual sacrifices. ~~ We offer spiritual sacrifices to the Lord ~ in appreciation for our salvation.

▷▷ Paul and the author of Hebrews help explain what spiritual sacrifices means.

▷▷ Here in Philippians, ~ Paul says giving financial support is a sacrifice. ¶¶ 9/13

▷▷ Over in Romans, ~ he says that giving our whole life ~ 77

↳ ↳ to obeying and serving God ~ is a "holy and acceptable" sacrifice (Rom. 12).

▷▷ And the author of Hebrews says that ~ praise to God, ~ doing good, ~ 77

↳ ↳ and sharing what we have ~ are all sacrifices (Heb. 13).

▶▶ These are the types of sacrifices we offer. ~ And God is pleased with these.

PAUL TELLS THEM IN VERSE 19 ~ THAT GOD ~ WILL SUPPLY ~ EVERY NEED OF theirs.

NOW, ~ WE HAVE THE GENERAL PROMISE FROM JESUS ~ THAT HE WILL PROVIDE what we need.

▶▶ But Paul is not talking about the general promise here. ~ This is a specific response to their gifts.

▷▷ Paul's promise here ~ has to be ~ looked at and thought about ~ in the context of the Philippians' gifts to him.

AND IN THE CONTEXT ~ OF THEIR GIFTS, ~ MOST LIKELY, ~ PAUL WAS WANTING TO assure them ~ that their needs would not go unmet.

▶▶ It's very natural for us to worry that ~ if we give money to support our fellow believers, ~ in missions ~ or what have you, ~ we might not have enough to meet our own needs.

▶▶ And Paul is telling all believers, ~ that we don't have to worry about it.

▷▷ The Lord loves a cheerful giver. ~ And he will provide for us. ~ So we can go ahead and give.

▶▶ And when we invest in the kingdom of God, ~ we can rest assured that the Lord won't be stingy in his support of us in return. 10/13

▷▷ The Greek word for ~ "supply" ~ means ~ to provide for ~ by supplying a complete amount, ~ to provide for ~ completely, ~ to supply ~ fully."

▶▶ So there is ~ absolutely ~ no reason to worry if we give money to support our fellow believers.

▶▶ Now, ~ it's important to understand ~ that this ~ is not ~ calling us to be foolish, ~ and give away all our money.

▷▷ Paul is simply getting the point across that ~ when there's a need, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ like ~ for missions ~ or in another believer's life ~ or to help fix something in the church building, ~ ¶¶

→→ we don't have to be afraid to give ~ in order to help meet the need.

AND PAUL SAYS THAT THE LORD WILL PROVIDE FOR US ~ BY SUPPLYING A COMPLETE amount, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ and look at this ~ in [verse 19](#), ~ "according to his riches in glory," ~ or, ~ "according to his glorious riches."

▶▶ IOW, ~ we never ~ have to worry ~ about God not being able to meet our needs, ~ either ~ in general ~ or ~ in the context of investing in his kingdom.

▶▶ My . . . , ~ we cannot begin ~ to comprehend God's riches in glory, ~ his riches are limitless, ~ infinite.

▷▷ And it is from this storehouse that believers' needs are met.

AND NOW ~ JUST A BRIEF WORD OF APPLICATION AND EXPANSION ~ ON WHAT we've been discussing in [verse 19](#).

▶▶ We can trust that our loving heavenly Father ~ will always ~ meet our needs. ¶¶ 11/13

▷▷ Never doubt that loved ones. ~~~ Whatever we will need on earth, ~ he will supply fully.

↳↳ Even the courage, ~ if the Lord carries, ~ to face death.

▶▶ We must remember, ~ however, ~ the difference between wants and needs. ~~ And that God has not promised to give us what we want. ~~ **But he has promised to give us what we need.**

A FINAL POINT ~ ON VERSE 19. ~~ NOTICE CAREFULLY WHAT PAUL SAYS AT THE END of the verse.

▶▶ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ⇨⇨ "in Christ Jesus."

▶▶ This provision of our needs by God ~ takes place ~ only ~ because we have a relationship with Jesus.

▷▷ It is ~ only ~ through Jesus ~ that we have access to the Father's riches. ~~ We need to always remember that.

↳↳ And we always need to be grateful to Jesus ~ for what he has done for us.

▶▶ Praise God, ~ my fellow believers, ~ through our Savior, ~ we have access to God the Father ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and can ~ "approach ~ God's throne of grace ~ with confidence, ~ [and] receive mercy ~ and find grace to help us ~ in our time of need." (NIV)

▶▶ And this promise applies ~ only ~ to those who have confessed with their mouth ~ that Jesus is Lord, ~ and believe in their heart ~ that God raised him from the dead.

▷▷ If you have repented of your sins ~ and turned to Jesus for salvation, ~ then, ~ and only then, ~ can you claim this promise.

PAUL CLOSES HIS THANK-YOU NOTE ~ WITH A DOXOLOGY. ¶¶ 12/13

TO OUR GOD AND FATHER ~ BE GLORY FOREVER AND EVER. ~~ AMEN.

▶▶Our triune God is worthy of glory and honor ~ because ~ he is God.

▷▷He, ~ and he alone, ~ is the sovereign creator and ruler ~ of all things.

▷▷He is clothed in majesty and splendor ~ beyond our comprehension.

▷▷He is ~ eternal, ~ holy, ~ faithful, ~ just, ~ and true.

▷▷He is unlimited ~ in wisdom and power.

▷▷He is immeasurably kind, ~ gracious, ~ merciful, ~ and loving.

▶▶Our triune God is also worthy of glory and honor ~ because ~ he is our perfect Father.

▷▷He is the Father ~ of all those ~ whom by grace ~ he has adopted into his family.

▷▷As our Father, ~ he loves us ~ with an undying love.

↪↪He lovingly and graciously ~ supplies our needs.

→→And he protects us, ~ ensuring our resurrection and glorification.

▶▶Our triune God ~ deserves ~ our praise and worship ~ both in this life ~ and in the life to come.

CONCLUSION.

AMEN.

▶▶Enough said.

LET'S PRAY . . . . 13/13