

Series: Blessed to Be a Blessing
"What Happens When I Share God's Blessings?"

Introduction:

1. What if I were to say to you, "I know something you can do that will bring you contentment and joy, will bring other people to Jesus, bring you treasure that will last forever, and insure that God meets your every need?"
2. You would probably respond, "Sign me up. That sounds great!" Let's read **Philippians 4:10-19** and see if you can discover what this church did that, in turn, brought all the wonderful blessings that I just mentioned.
3. Here is what they did. They shared God's blessings with the apostle Paul so that he could continue to do the work of the ministry and see souls come to Jesus Christ.
4. Last week we looked at the words of Jesus, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" We learned that God blesses us with resources, not just to meet **our** needs, but to be a blessing to others. We are blessed to be a blessing. This is renewed-mind thinking.
5. What happens when a believer, by faith, believes the words of Christ and handles God's blessings with this mind-set? What happens when you become a channel of blessing to others through sacrificial giving? Let's look into this text and see.

First, you gain the joy of true contentment. vs. 10-12

1. There is a major misconception that Satan has planted in the minds of people - the more I have, the more content I will be, the happier I will be, the more fulfilled I will be.
2. This is nothing new. It is an age-old lie.
 - Eve believed it when she ate the forbidden fruit.
 - Lot believed it when he chose the well-watered plain of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - Achan believed it when he took the spoils of war from Jericho.
 - Ananias and Sapphira believed it when they pretended to give sacrificially but really possessed covetous hearts.
 - Do I need to remind you how these people's lives ended?
3. We live in a very discontent society. Enough is never enough. People are drowning in their thirst for more. Their covetousness leads to broken marriages, kids who never see their parents, depression (can't get what you want or can't enjoy what you have), chemical addiction, drunkenness, stress from the debt load, etc.
4. When a believer has learned contentment, he has a peace in his heart that is priceless. Paul had learned contentment through the ups and downs of life. vs. 10-11
5. Do you know how you learn contentment? When you believe the words of Jesus, that you are blessed to be a blessing, and you begin to practice the grace of giving. You are then on your way to leaving the barren fields of covetousness and entering the fruitful and blessed fields of contentment.

Second, you help the gospel of Christ to advance. vs. 15-16

1. Paul was a missionary. He was all about ministry - preaching the gospel of Christ and teaching God's Word to others.

2. According to the Bible, Paul had financial needs (vs. 16 - "*my necessity*"). Why is this? Because money is necessary for ministry. It takes money to sustain ministry and reach people with the gospel. We all know this.
3. God uses believers to meet the financial needs for ministry (vs. 18). The gospel has changed their lives, therefore they want other people to be able to hear it.
4. Because these people gave sacrificially, a great multitude of Greeks in Thessalonica were saved. **Acts 17:4**
5. If the gospel of Christ is to advance, it will only happen through the sacrificial giving of God's people. The **world** will not give to advance the gospel (they are all about accumulating stuff for themselves - they think this life is it). As believers, we know better. **Colossians 3:2**

Third, you store up eternal reward. vs. 17-18

1. According to verse 18, did God see their sacrificial gifts? What effect did their sacrificial giving have on God? It was well-pleasing to God. It was like a sweet fragrance to God.
2. Now look at verse 17. Do you realize what this is teaching? These believers actually **shared** in Paul's ministry through their sacrificial giving. All that Paul was able to accomplish through their giving **abounded** to their account in heaven.
 - It was laying up eternal treasure for them that they would enjoy for all of eternity.
3. When you give of your blessings to CrossRoads or any other ministry that is teaching God's Word, you are sharing in everything good that happens through that ministry.
4. Have you ever noticed how **big** \$100 looks when you take it to church to give, and how **small** it looks when you take it to Disney World or Sea World? It won't even get you through the front gate. It goes to enrich their pockets and it is gone forever.
5. But what we give to God's work will provide enrichment for eternity.
6. We learn here that God takes note and keeps a record of every gift.

Fourth, you insure God's provision. vs. 19

1. These believers had sacrificed to give to the ministry, but look at the glorious promise they received. vs. 19
2. Some of you may be thinking, "I can't give to God's work, my budget is tight. I don't have any extra." According to verse 19 you can!
3. You are blessed to be a blessing. God has promised to meet the needs of the believer who is generous with God's blessings.
4. There is no such promise for those who hoard God's blessings and keep them all for themselves.

In Conclusion:

1. There is a promise for the greedy and covetous, though. It is found in **1 Timothy 6:9-10**.
2. But there is also a promise in **1 Timothy 6:17-19** to those who take God's blessings and use them to be a blessing to others.
3. So God has promised to work on the givers' behalf in two ways:
 - He will meet our needs while here on earth.
 - He will reward us eternally when we get to heaven.