

A Church for Others
“Reaching Out Through Sacrificial Giving”
Philippians 4:10-19

Introduction:

1. As we have examined what it means to be a church for others, we have discovered that it takes unconditional love for people, the proclamation of truth, hearts that are growing, and people who truly desire to minister.
2. But there is another key element in a local congregation becoming a church for others. Are you ready for this? It takes people who are reaching out through their sacrificial giving. This makes sense, doesn't it?
3. Here is the brutal reality: ministry takes money! This is true now, it always has been true, and it always will be true. Let's turn to Philippians 4:10-19.
4. As Paul ministered for the Lord, he had financial needs (vs. 16). How were those needs met? God did not float down money out of heaven for Paul. It came through the sacrificial giving of God's people.
5. This local church at Philippi gave sacrificially of their monies so that Paul could continue the work of the ministry. This is God's plan, pure and simple. Every believer should be growing in the grace of giving. Why is this so crucial?

First, sacrificial giving reflects godly contentment. vs. 10-12

1. This was a very giving church, but for a while it seems that they lacked opportunity to give. vs. 10
2. Most of the time, a lack of opportunity is not our problem. Today, we face a different problem in America: a lack of contentment. vs. 11
 - In our society, contentment is not the norm. In our modern-day culture, enough is never enough. Everybody wants a little bit more. What is the tenth of the Ten Commandments? *“Thou shalt not covet.”* cf. 1 Timothy 6:9-10
 - Covetousness is what leads to discontentment, but giving is God's designed way to guard our hearts against the black hole of covetousness.
3. Paul said that he had **learned** contentment. God had taught him this through the ups and downs of life. vs. 12
 - Contentment **doesn't** mean that you never get a better car, or you never try to improve the condition of your home, or never get new clothes.
 - Contentment **does** mean that you will willingly give up those things if those things are going to prevent you from being able to give sacrificially.
 - It is very hard to give sacrificially when we are paying sacrificially for all our material possessions.
4. Contentment means that your joy isn't based on materialistic prosperity, but your joy is derived from Christ living and giving through you. vs. 13
 - As we give each week to the Lord, it is a constant reminder that it's not all about us; it is about God and what God is doing in light of eternity.

5. Sacrificial givers have learned the glorious secret of contentment and are helping their church become a church for others through their Christ-like giving.

Second, sacrificial giving allows the gospel of Christ to advance. vs. 15-16

1. The apostle Paul was all about sharing with people the good news of Jesus Christ. But according to the Bible, Paul had financial needs. vs. 15-16
2. Why is this? It's because money is necessary for ministry. It takes money to sustain ministry.
3. God used these believers to meet the financial needs for ministry (vs. 18). They gave and the need was met and the gospel moved forward, changing lives.
 - When Paul was in Macedonia, they gave sacrificially. What was the result?
 - As we read in Acts, in Thessalonica a great multitude of Greeks believed on Christ (17:4), in Berea many believed (17:12), in Athens certain men clave unto him and believed, and in Corinth many hearing, believed. 18:8
4. How does God meet the needs for ministry? He does it through His children's sacrificial giving. This is God's plan, and when people are obedient, it is more than enough to meet the financial needs of the church. CrossRoads is a faith-based ministry. What does this mean?
 - It means that we aren't charging people for ministry and we aren't selling anything, but rather we are relying solely on the giving of our people to meet the needs of this ministry. Without people's giving, ministry simply doesn't happen.
 - In a church for others, the people realize that they must give if the Word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ are going to advance.

Third, sacrificial giving brings heavenly reward.

1. According to verse 18, did God see their sacrificial giving? What effect did their sacrificial giving have on God? It was "*wellpleasing!*" It was like a sweet fragrance to God. God certainly noticed their giving, didn't He?
2. But now let's look at verse 17. This is teaching that these Christians **shared** in Paul's ministry through their sacrificial giving. Everything Paul accomplished, they had a hand in, and it was abounding to their accounts in heaven.
3. It was laying up eternal treasure for them that they will enjoy for all of eternity.
 - Paul basically was saying, "I didn't want your money for **me**, I wanted it for ministry because I know that my ministry will bring forth fruit that will abound to your account in heaven."
4. When you give to CrossRoads, you are sharing in all the spiritual fruit that happens around here. It abounds to your heavenly account.
 - Have you ever noticed how big \$100 looks when you take it to church and how small it looks when you take it to the mall or amusement park? You spend it, you enrich the amusement park, and then it's gone.

- But when you give to the Lord's work, there is not only an earthly benefit as souls are impacted, but there is also an eternal dividend that lasts forever. You enjoy the benefits for eternity. 1 Timothy 6:18-19
5. We see from this text that God notices our sacrificial gifts. It truly touches His heart. In fact, it is in this context that the great promise of verse 19 comes.

In Conclusion:

1. According to this passage, there are three keys to becoming a sacrificial giver:
 - Make a personal decision. vs. 15
 - The generous giver gives whether anyone else does or not.
 - Make it a regular practice. vs. 10, 16
 - There was a pattern to their giving. They weren't one-time givers. They didn't simply give when there happened to be a big surplus. No, they had a habit of giving. It was a practice in their lives.
 - And the same is true of us. Giving should be a normal and continual part of our lives.
 - Trust Christ to give through you. vs. 13
 - You can't do it, but Christ can do it through you. He gives us the ability to shed the cultural trappings of materialism and greed.
 - If you are saved, Christ lives in you and He is the ultimate sacrificial giver!
2. A church for others is reaching out through sacrificial giving, and its members are striving to grow in the wonderful grace of giving.