

Philippians

CHAPTER 4:14-23

Lesson 18

The church in Philippi had responded to the needs they perceived Paul had. In our last lesson, we saw Paul's expressions of appreciation. In these closing verses of Philippians 4, Paul continued to respond to them, reminding them that, as God saw and met his needs, He would supply all of their need. Our needs are met according to the unlimited riches of Christ Jesus. What a glorious reminder.

Read Philippians 4:14-23

1. Reflect upon Paul's final words of Philippians. What is this section about?

2. As we continue to examine Paul's closing remarks, we can glean much about Paul's attitude. Mark each occurrence of words which refer to Paul such as *I*, *me*, or *my* as used in Philippians 4:14-23 on your Observation Worksheet.
 - a. List each reference you marked relating to Paul. Following each reference, record the verse in parenthesis. We have done the first one for you.
 1. Philippian believers did well that they shared in Paul's distress (14)

 - b. Consider Paul's attitude as expressed in these verses. What do you see?

Read Philippians 4:14-16

1. Paul's first reaction to receiving the gifts from the believers in Philippi is expressed in Philippians 4:10,11. How would you describe his response?

2. Philippians 4:14 uses a word of contrast, in this case, clarifying his previous statements. What did Paul write?
 - a. How might you have first reacted to Paul's statement in verse 11 as it related to your gift?

3. Write the words of Philippians 4:14 and underline the phrase *you have done well*.
 - a. Paul stated in verse 11 that he was *content*. Why would their gift to him still be a blessing?

 - b. Circle the phrase *in my distress*. Define the word *distress*.
 - 1.) The Greek word translated as *distress* is most often translated as *tribulation* in the New Testament. This was neither a word or an experience unfamiliar to Paul. What had Paul learned about *tribulation*?

2 Corinthians 1:4

Romans 5:3-5

Romans 8:35

4. This was not the first time that the believers in Philippi sent aid to Paul. What do we learn from Philippians 4:15,16 about their giving?

a. Why is giving to someone considered *sharing*?

Read Philippians 4:17,18

1. Paul appreciated their gift. Yet, even more so, what else did he *seek*?

a. Using the following verses, describe this *fruit*.

Proverbs 19:17

2 Corinthians 9:9-13

Hebrews 6:10

1.) How are you encouraged or challenged by these verses?

3. What words did Paul use to describe their gift in Philippians 4:18?

a. Using Hebrews 13:16, describe God's response to sacrificial giving.

4. The very meaning of the word *sacrifice* denotes cost to the giver. What does 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 say about the Macedonians' (area of Philippi) gifts to Paul?

5. Reflect upon God's viewpoint of giving. What do you see?

Read Philippians 4:19-20

1. Warren Wiersbe paraphrased Philippians 4:19 as, “You met my need, and God is going to meet your need. You met one need that I have, but my God will meet all of your needs. You gave out of your poverty, but God will supply your needs out of His riches in glory”. Record what the following verses have to say about God repaying those who give:

Psalm 41:1,2

Proverbs 3:9,10

Proverbs 11:25

Luke 6:32,35

2. What do the following verses reveal about how rich God is?

Psalm 50:10

Psalm 104:24

3. How would you explain Philippians 4:19 to a new believer who is struggling with God’s provision?

4. In what ways have you experienced the truth of this verse?

5. Record Philippians 4:20.

- a. How does this verse compare to Paul’s goal in Philippians 1:20?

Read Philippians 4:21,22

1. Philippians 4:21,22 records Paul's greetings from himself and those who were with him. Note from verse 22 who were *especially* sending their greetings.

- a. It is doubtful that *those who are of Caesar's household* personally knew the believers in Philippi. These people had probably come to salvation through Paul's ministry while he was imprisoned. How do you think this greeting from these new believers encouraged the believers in Philippi?

2. Record Paul's final words in Philippians 4:23 by writing them in large block letters.

Review Philippians 4:14-23

1. In what ways were you personally challenged by these verses?

*For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
The LORD will give grace and glory;
No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- Psalm 84:11*