

## THE JOY OF GIVING

Monday, May 18th 2020

### *Philippians 4:15-20*

*“Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

Even though Paul had already learned in his service to Jesus how to be content in need and in plenty, and not to draw his contentment from his outside circumstances, his time in prison in Rome wasn't easy.

The Christians in Philippi blessed Paul materially through the sending of Epaphroditus, who became fatally ill on his journey to Rome (Phil. 2:25-30). They had already supported Paul in his service for the gospel of Christ monetarily in the past. They clearly gave from a free and generous heart.

Here we see a great example of how the body of Christ takes care of each other. We all belong to the same body through Jesus when we believe in His name. We are one big, spiritual family (Phil. 4:2). When we bless our brothers and sisters, whether it be financially or through practical acts of service, we also end up blessing ourselves. ***We grow to me more joyful when we give to others!*** (Verse 17)

The same Paul who receives a financial blessing here had given the Christians in Ephesus an example of what it meant to take care of yourself in order to be able to bless others with your own earnings. Just before he left Ephesus to continue his missionary journey, Paul left the elders with the following words: *“...remember the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:35b)

What opportunities is God gifting you with during this unordinary time to bless your brothers and sisters in the faith?

***Prayer:*** Thank You, Jesus, that You say we shouldn't be anxious for anything, because we know that You are concerned for us. Help us to bless others through our faith so we can follow Your example. Amen.

-Alexander Gasnik-

