

(10) I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now, at length, you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am (in) to be content. I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

(14) Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the Gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

(17) Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more! I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

(19) And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

(21) Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Think on these things:

- 1) Consider v.10 with v.18. What can we deduce about the coming of Epaphroditus to Paul, who was sent by the church at Philippi? From a previous lesson we learned that on this trip to see Paul, Epaphroditus became ill and nearly died (chapter 2:27-28).

- 2) How long had the church at Philippi been supporting Paul in his missionary work (vs.14-16)? Remember, where Philippi is located and some key people there (skim Acts 16:11-40, his 2nd journey). Why does Paul say they stopped supporting him for a time (v.10, his 3rd journey)?

- 3) Looking closely at v.15, what is the "model" for supporting missionaries? Should this be a personal commitment, a church commitment, or both? Have you ever chosen to support a missionary?

- 4) What are we guided to do regardless of our wealth or health (or anything else, v.11b)? Consider also this life verse in 1 Timothy 6:6 (in context, verses 6-10) and Hebrews 13:5-6.

- 5) In v.12, Paul explains a common experience for many folks: “I’ve had it both ways (flush with money and being flat broke), and I know what it’s like!” Then he says he’s learned the secret of how to be content --- either way.... What did he discover (v.13)?

- 6) Now that we have looked at v.13 in its proper context, let’s expand upon that verse. How can you apply this life principle to other aspects of life? Let’s share some examples with each other.

- 7) Paul says he not looking for a support gift now (v.17a), that he has already received much more from the Philippians than full payment for his work among them (as their spiritual father, v.18). What is he looking for (v.17b)?

- 8) One final concept to focus on. Look at v.14, and now look back to Acts 2:44-47 and 2 Corinthians 8:12-15. What is a proper Christian perspective on having money? Is it a one-sided principle? If not, explain why not.

- 9) As a bit of Bible trivia, who did Paul successfully convert to Christ even while under house arrest in Rome waiting for his trial before Caesar (v.22)?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: