



**#8 A Life of Generosity**  
**Prairie Rose EMC, April 18, 2021**  
**Pastor Mike – Phil. 4:14-23**



<sup>14</sup> Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup> 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; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. <sup>17</sup> Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and even more; 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. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

<sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>21</sup> Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings. <sup>22</sup> All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

<sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. (NIV 84)

**Observations:**

- 1. Their financial gift means identification with Paul. (14)**  
*"Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles"*
- 2. This is a generous young church. (15&16)**  
*"you sent me aid again and again when I was in need."*
- 3. Paul expresses his motivation in expressing his gratitude. (17)**  
*"But I seek the fruit that increases to your credit"*
- 4. Generous giving is a "fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God." (18)**
- 5. "God will meet all your needs."(19)**

**What is "the fruit to their credit"?**

- #1 If we give - we will get
- #2 Approval and affirmation from God
- #3 Increased Joy
- #4 God will give them greater responsibilities
- #5 Increased reward in heaven
- #6 Enriched fellowship and intimacy
- #7 Joy that comes from knowing God is glorified

***"We are channels and conduits of God's generosity, not reservoirs!"***

*"... the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. " (18b)*

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21*

**Principles of faithful giving:**

- #1 Faithful giving should be one of the first things we establish in our Christian walk.**
  - a. How much do you want to give?*
  - b. Start with 10% and see where it might lead!*
- #2 Faithful giving should be focused on the spreading of the gospel.**
  - a. Give to those who emphasize ministry, not money*
  - b. Give where you have been or are being blessed*
- #3 Faithful giving is investing in eternity. Luke 16:1-9**
- #4 Faithful giving should be motivated by worship.**



**Memory verses:**

**1. A Life of Connection** (Phil. 1:1-11)

*"I thank my God every time I remember you". Phil. 1:3*

**2. A Life of Purpose** (Phil. 1:12-30)

*"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain". Phil. 1:21*

**3. A Life of Humility** (Phil. 2:1-18) Phil. 2:3

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."*

**4. A Life of Compassion** (Phil. 2:19-30)

*"For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ." Phil. 2:21*

**5. A Life of Hope** (Phil. 3:1-21)

*"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ." Phil 3:7*

**6. A Life of Joy** (Phil. 4:1-9)

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Phil. 4:4*

**7. A Life of Contentment** (Phil. 4:10-14)

*"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation," Phil. 4:12*

**8. A Life of Generosity – Sacrificial Giving** (Phil. 4:14-23) 4:18b

*"The gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Phil. 4:18b*