



Intro to Philippians 4:10-20

Sunday, February 23, 2020
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The Bible has a lot to say on the topic of generosity. It begins with understanding the character of God Himself. God is a giving God. In the Book of Ecclesiastes, the most common action attributed to God is that He gives. Paul would say in his teaching on Mars Hill that God has given all humanity life and breath and everything (Acts 17:25). Not only does He give us the basic necessities of sustaining life, but He gives us all things for us to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17). He gives a bounty far beyond what we need because He delights in giving His children good gifts (Matt. 7:11).

It is from this foundation in God's own character that the Bible commands us to be generous. If God is a generous God, then we as His people ought to be generous as well. It's not only that we should give a certain percentage of our annual income to the church, it's that our whole disposition should be one of generosity towards others. This should not be done out of compulsion, but out of the overflow of gratitude from a heart that has come to understand the generosity of God Himself.

Context

The Book of Philippians is all about partnership. Paul begins the letter by expressing his gratitude for the Philippian church's partnership in the gospel. This partnership, Paul reasons, is because of their common partaking with him in the grace of Christ. Their generosity is evidence of grace in their lives—the fruit of a heart that has embraced the gospel. He ends the letter with the same note of gratitude for their partnership and reminds them of the reward that is coming their way because of their generosity (4:17, 19). God is glorified in our generosity because it is a reflection of His own perfections.

Read and Reflect (*Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.*)

Read Philippians 4:10-20

“I Have Learned the Secret”

Who is this guy?

What circumstances?

What is the secret?

Learning to love Jesus supremely and trust Him completely for all of life.

Good of you to share

- Brave
- Rare
- Generous

Good for you to share

- Credit
- Pleasing
- Promise

We are never more like God than when we give and forgive

Discuss

- 1) What causes people to be discontent with their finances/standards of living?
 - 2) How content would you say you are with your current financial situation/standard of living?
 - 3) In what ways has God been generous toward you?
 - 4) What challenges you most about the Bible's teaching on generosity?
 - 5) Read Acts 20:35. How have you experienced this blessing in your life?