

MISSION WORK, CHRIST'S COMMAND, THE CHURCH'S PRIVILEGE
PHIL. 4:15-23

Introduction:

- A. Paul has commended the church at Philippi for helping him. v14
 - 1. They shared in his affliction.
 - 2. They were in the trenches with him.

- B. This church was unusual, because they were doing the will of God. v14
 - 1. The usual is to stand in disobedience.
 - 2. The people obeyed, they were the exception.

I. THE PHILIPPIANS HAD SUPPORTED PAUL IN HIS EARLY MINISTRY. V15.

- A. "In the beginning of my gospel ministry."
 - 1. They didn't wait too long for him to, "pan-out."
 - 2. They supported him when he left.

- B. Churches should invest in the early ministry of preachers.
 - 1. Churches seemed pleased to support the exp
 - 2. Don't go near the water till you learn to swim!

II. THEY SUPPORTED PAUL TO PREACH TO OTHERS. V16

- A. "For even in Thessalonica ye sent more than once to relieve my needs."
 - 1. They paid, while others benefited.

- B. This is the test of a great church!
 - 1. To share without accusation.

III. BY GIVING TO PAUL THEY PUT MONEY IN THEIR ACCOUNT. V17

page 69

- A. Paul denied that he was anxious for the gift.
 - 1. "Not because I am anxious for money."
 - 2. "Sure Paul, just what is it you want."

- b. Paul wanted "fruit" that would, "abound" to their "account".
 - 1. Fruit = that which is dry and ripe, fruit.
 - 2. abound = to become more, to increase.
 - 3. accounts = that which is yours.
 - 4. "but I am anxious to see the abundant return that will be placed to your account."

IV. PAUL IS THANKFUL FOR THEIR LATEST GIFT. V18

- A. Paul had received the gift from Epaphroditus.
 - 1. The trip had almost cost him his life. 2:27,30
 - 2. The gift is more sanctified when risk is involved.

- b. It was, "well-pleasing to God," not to Paul only.
 - 1. "an odour of a sweet smell."
 - 2. "a sacrifice acceptable."

V. THEY WOULD NOT GO BROKE SUPPORTING MISSIONARIES. V19

- A. "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
 - 1. supply = further supply, super-addition.
 - 2. need = use, as property use, advantage, service.
 - 3. "according as Christ is rich in glory."

- B. The church that spends or uses its money in spiritual endeavor will never be in need!

- C. We have no right to ask for more than our "need."
 - 1. What is a need?
 - 2. That which can be used?

page 70

VI. THE FINAL WORDS. V20-23

- A. God our Father is to receive glory. v20
 - 1. The final test of all things.

- B. Say, Hi, to everyone.; v21
 - 1. "Salute every saint in Christ Jesus."
 - 2. "The brethren with me salute you."

- C. Saints in a strange place. v22
 - 1. "Caesar's household."
 - 2. Body servants of an Emperor.

- D. The last word. v23
 - 1. What else can be said?