

**“God’s Promise to Meet Your Needs”**

**Text: Philippians 4:14-20**

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Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church ([www.pbpc.org](http://www.pbpc.org))

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**PRAY!**

This is the last message in the series, “How to Enjoy the Rest of Your Life”. The Book of Philippians was written for two reasons.

- It is a thank you letter and it is a receipt for a gift that Paul was given.
- He wrote the book of Philippians to the Philippians because they had sent him a gift, in fact numerous offerings.

This morning we’re going to look at Philippians 4:14-20. This last passage of Philippians is probably the greatest promise in the Bible. It is so all-encompassing that almost any other promise will fit under its umbrella.

God’s promise to meet your needs is Philippians 4:19, “*And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*”

- God says, “*I will meet all your needs.*” Then why do people have needs? A lot of Christians have tremendous needs. Why aren’t they being met? Is God a liar? Is His promise not valid?

The answer to this question is that this promise is not for everybody. It is not even applied to every Christian. With every promise there is a premise. There is a condition that God says, “If you do this, I will do that.” People want to take the vs. 19 promise and apply it to their lives while avoiding the premise of vs. 14-18. You cannot claim vs. 19 unless you’re doing what vs. 18 talks about.

- The context is Paul is talking to a group of Philippians saying, “*Thank you. You have given sacrificially. And because you have given sacrificially, God is going to take care of your needs.*”

**I. THE PREMISE (vs. 14-18): I must be generous to others.**

- A. Proverbs 11:25, “*A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.*” When you’re generous to others, God is going to be generous with you.
- B. Luke 6:38, Jesus says, “*Give to others, and God will give to you... The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you.*” You be generous and God will bless you.
- C. The premise of this promise is that we first must be generous with others. Paul tells us that unless I’m obeying God in the matter of giving, God doesn’t give any guarantee to meet my needs. God is not obligated to meet my needs if I’m not obeying what He’s told me to do. We can block the flow of blessings by being stingy.

Paul gives us three reasons for being generous:

### 1. My Giving is an Encouragement to others.

- A. Philippians 4:14-16, *"It was good of you to share in my troubles... as you Philippians know, in the early days ... 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 again and again when I was in need."*
- B. The Philippian church was not a wealthy church. Just the opposite. It was a poverty stricken church. Yet they were big hearted, generous, giving. Paul said their gift encouraged him. Giving is an encouragement. Both the giver and the givee receive a blessing, an encouragement.
- C. Results of giving:
  - 1. It gives us a wider ministry than we would normally have. In Philippians 1, Paul says they are "partners in ministry." Whatever you support financially you're partners with. Giving allows me to be involved in somebody else's ministry.
  - 2. Giving makes us like Christ. The most Christlike thing you can do is give, because Jesus was a giver. He was sacrificial. 2 Corinthians 8 tells us that the Philippian church had a reputation for generosity and Paul calls them an example to the world.

### 2. My giving is an investment in the future.

- A. Vs. 17 is a banking term. *"Though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward you will have because of your kindness."*
  - 1. Giving benefits the giver as well as the receiver. You're going to get a well-earned reward. In the Greek it means "accumulated interest".
- B. God pays interest. Jesus said 100fold will be returned to him who gives up for the gospel. One hundred fold is 10,000% interest. Paul says I want you to receive the reward for your giving. The Good News translation says, *"... I want to see profit added to your account"*.
  - 1. You have an account in Heaven. God is recording anything and everything that you do. Every time you give something, it is recorded in heaven. A cup of water given in Jesus' name is written down. Every time you're generous with your family, church, friends, unbelievers – anytime you give it is recorded and rewarded. It is an investment and the bank of Heaven pays interest. No investment, no interest. Invest in people who are going there.
- C. 1 Timothy 6:18-19, *"...Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity!"*

### 3. My giving is a sacrifice to God.

- A. Vs. 18, *“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.”*
- B. The most pleasing thing you can do for God is sacrificial giving. It is done in faith and without faith it is impossible to please God. Jesus Christ was a totally sacrificial giver. When you are most like Christ, you are sacrificial in your giving, generous, sharing. And it pleases God.
- C. Giving is a “fragrant offering”, an act of worship. That’s why it’s a part of our worship service. It’s just as important as singing, praying or teaching.

That’s the premise. The premise comes before the promise. V. 18 comes before vs. 19; I must first be generous to others and then God will be generous with me.

### II. THE PROMISE (vs. 19) – *“My God will supply all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*

- A. This is the Believer’s Insurance Policy. It tells you what warranty God has guaranteed to care for in your life.
- B. The Source:** *“And my God will...”*
  - 1. God is not a force; He’s a person, a personal God. Jesus said when you pray, pray like this, “Our Father” – He is a Heavenly Father – intimate. As a result, He’s very aware of all the needs you have – financial, mental, physical, health, relational. And He’s a caring, consistent, capable Father. Our Heavenly Father assumes responsibility for His children’s needs. He does it in a perfect way.
- C. The Scope:** *“...will meet all your needs...”* This includes everything. It doesn’t say God *might* meet your needs, but *will* meet your needs. It’s a guarantee. If you met the premise, count on the promise. If you are a consistent, generous giver you can count on the promise. God is going to take care of your needs.
  - 1. This verse does not include consequences of laziness. God does not say you go out and waste your money on luxuries then when you don’t have enough money to pay for your needs, I’ll supply them. God hasn’t agreed to do that. God does not bankroll foolishness.
  - 2. What has God promised in this verse? All legitimate needs. Do have a financial need? If you’re a faithful giver you have every right to ask God to meet your financial needs. If you’re not a faithful giver you have no right, because you’re not meeting the premise. How about physical needs, health needs, relational needs, emotional needs, any kind of needs? God promises to meet all your needs.

**D. The Supply:** *“according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*

God’s bank will never go bankrupt. He has unlimited resources. He has an inexhaustible supply as exhibited in many of His miracles.

1. God gives you a blank check. Philippians 4:19 is the blank check for the believer. A blank check is worthless if it doesn’t have a signature on it. But this check is signed with the name of Jesus Christ. His check never bounces.

If you let the truth of this passage really grasp you, it will revolutionize your life. The principle is this: **If you become a giver, God will take care of your needs.** That is taught all through the Scriptures. Giving guarantees God’s provision. I have absolutely no worries about the future in terms of financial need. God will meet the promise because I am meeting the premise. I have done what God has said about giving.

Some of you haven’t learned the joy of giving yet. You give but you don’t get any joy out of it. It’s fun to give, because you know that you cannot outgive God. He more than blesses us back. I challenge you to practically discover the power and principles of this promise. Become a faithful, generous person with everybody and watch what God does in your life.

This applies to churches as well as persons. When the church gives itself away and is interested in others (missions), God takes care of its needs.

**PRAY!**