

Sermon: Thankful

Text: Philippians 4:10-23

Discussion Questions:

- According to verse 10, what is Paul rejoicing in? Why do you think it encouraged Paul to know that the Philippian people were concerned about him—but “had no opportunity to show it”? (v. 10)
- Philippians is often thought of as a thank you letter (much like the title of this sermon). It’s interesting to note that Paul never actually thanks the Philippians for their partnership with him. Specifically—here in verse 10—Paul says he “rejoiced greatly in the Lord” for their concern. What does that tell you about Paul’s perspective on their financial help? Who is he ultimately thanking?
- Why do think it might be important for the Philippians to know that Paul is not rejoicing because they helped him in his need? (vv. 11-13)
- What is Paul’s secret to contentment and strength (v. 12)? How do you think this works? Is this something that any of us can find or experience?
- How does Paul describe his relationship with the Philippians (vv. 14-16)? How is his relationship with them different from his relationship with other churches?
- It is clear from all of this that the church in Philippi viewed themselves as “partners” with Paul in his work as an apostle. How would you describe the difference between taking up an offering and “donating” to the work—vs. actually partnering with someone in much more of an ongoing relationship?
- What is Paul’s desire for the Philippians in their partnership? What is he seeking for them? (v. 17)
- Why does Paul call their gift a fragrant offering (v. 18)—an “acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God”? Was their gift actually given to Paul or to God? How might the different perspectives affect someone’s giving?
- Why do you think it might be significant for the Philippians to know that God will “meet all of their needs” (v. 19)? What do you think this means?
- What do you think Paul might want to be emphasizing about God’s generosity when he uses the phrase, “according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus”? (v. 19)
- How does God get glory when we are generous? (v. 20)
- What do you make of Paul specifically referring to a greeting being passed along by “those who belong to Caesar’s household”? (v. 21) Who do you think these people might have been? Any guesses as to why Paul singles them out when writing to the church in Philippi?