



DATE: 07 April 2024 WED
TEXT: **Philippians 4:14-22**
TITLE: **Fealty**

noun: loyalty; faithfulness

But to do good and to communicate forget not:
for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Hebrews 13:16

INTRODUCTION

- consider the following statistics:
 - 2 out of every 8 missionaries leave the field after only one year
 - 47% of missionaries leave after 5 years
 - 1 out of 8 missionaries will stay on the field for more than ten years
 - 71% of all missionaries leave the field for preventable reasons, but the greatest reason for leaving is a lack of funding
 - average *monthly* support is anywhere from \$6,000 to \$10,000
- from a Christian perspective, missions giving is a barometer that reflects life's pressure
 - financial giving is usually the first thing a Christian gives up when under pressure from other areas of life...health, family, etc.
- tonight, we want to look at a church that serves as a biblical example of supporting the Great Commission

1. CONFIDENCE DISPLAYED vs 14-17

verse 15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

A. PHILIPPIAN FELLOWSHIP

verse 14 Paul said the church at Philippi *communicated* with him

koinonia = partnership

also translated "fellowship"

Philippians 1:5

Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

this carries the idea of responsibility;
if we are partners, if we are fellow-laborers, then we must help one another do the work

verse 15 ...but ye only we have to wonder where the other churches were at in their spiritual giving at the time

church at Rome **Romans 16**

church in Antioch **Acts 13**

churches in Ephesus, Galatia, Corinth

church in Jerusalem (famine)

Philippi was actually a retirement community, where Roman soldiers settled down after they were put on government pensions

B. PHILIPPIAN FAITHFULNESS vs 15-18

this letter and their gift came to Paul some ten years after he founded the church

see **Acts 16**

they gave to him in Thessalonica, which was 100 miles down the road

they gave to him now, while he was in prison in Rome...some 1,200 miles away ...against the political pressure not to be involved with Paul as a political prisoner

cf **John 15:1-5**

they gave that's *fruit*

only ones to give that's *more fruit*

time and again that's *much fruit*

God was faithful to bless this church because of their faithfulness in funding God's program

a church can't afford **NOT** to give

verse 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2. CONFIDENCE REPAID vs 18-22

verse 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.

A. THEIR SACRIFICE

verse 18 Paul described their giving to his ministry as a **SACRIFICE**

it is not giving through hardship

the offering of a token to God

literally, "to burn up"

he said it was **SWEET-SMELLING**

Genesis 8:20-21

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savor...

Exodus 29:18

And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet savor, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

he said it was **ACCEPTABLE**

this is something done in the *right way*

he said it was **WELL PLEASING**

this is something done with *right motive*

Hebrews 13:16

But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

B. GOD'S SUPPLY

verse 19 but my God shall supply...

all your needs...not your greed

according to His riches...

His goodness

Romans 2:4

His knowledge, wisdom

Romans 11:33

His glory

Romans 9:23

His grace

Eph 1:17

His mercy

Eph 2:4

Romans 10:12

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Ephesians 1:18

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints...

how else can we explain God using a small church in the middle of nowhere to give over \$3 million in two years' time???

verse 20 God gets the glory

verse 22 ...they that are of Caesar's household

if Paul had not gone to prison, who would God have used to reach those souls in Nero's house?

what impact might our giving have on eternity???