

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 26, 2021

Why is giving so difficult to do? I believe it is because there is a tug of war between the things that the “World” causes us to love and want, and God’s demand to trust Him and love Him. An example is a mother giving birth to a child. On one hand she would have loved to keep her figure and not put herself through so much pain, but on the other hand she wants to be a mother, as God has blessed her to be, and develop a family with her husband. Her love for her child and her desire to build a home supersedes the pain and disfiguring of her body.



Just for a moment let’s evaluate the kind of things we must do to express godly love. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15) Loving is obeying God’s Word (1 John 2:3-6) because we are committed to change to the way He thinks and not use common sense as our guide (Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Proverbs 3:5-6). It is when we decide to think Biblically and obey His Word that our love becomes His love (1 John 4:7-14). It is when Christ’s love overflows in us that we like Him, are willing to deny ourselves and pick up the cross and follow Him. (Luke 14:27; John 15:1-11)

The Bible describes love in the following manner: “Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous, love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own...” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). Because loving God’s style is patient, He teaches us contentment. Because love is not jealous, we do not have to be envious when someone else has what we don’t have. Because love does not seek its own, it is not that hard to support the continual development of God’s kingdom work. Because love “bears all things, believes all things,” we will accept God’s challenge to give and trust Him to support our daily needs.

Giving can be difficult because when we give to God we are letting go of the world (Matthew 6:24; Deuteronomy 8:3). “...for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am in...And the world is passing away, and {also} its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:17) Giving in worship expresses our love and trust in God; this is why “giving” grows and leads us to contentment. An obedient and content heart has a much easier time remaining focused rather than a divided one.

UPCOMING Events



RWANDA UNIVERSITY PROJECT

Living Word is partnering with TL Africa Inc. for the Rwanda University Project. The University will train pastors and leaders in 5 countries across Africa and focus on pastoral leadership, women’s empowerment, sustainability and the completion of the Thousand Hills University building. Give to this dynamic project under the GIVE tab and choose **Rwanda University Project**.



TITUS 2 MEET & GREET

Calling all the Ladies! Join us for our first annual Titus 2 Meet and Greet! Break bread, fellowship and connect with your sisters in Christ. For more information please contact **Keron Brown or Elisha Taylor (281) 507-0102** or keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org



FAMILY TIES CONFERENCE—OCT. 5TH—7TH

This conference for the entire family with feature special guest speaker **Dr. Paul Chipman**, author of the book, “Conflict in the Mind” and his wife, **Vonda Chipman**, author and speaker. **Kids Conference** will include: Movie Night, Kids Cooking Class & Painting with an Obedient Twist. Refreshments will be served. Prize Giveaways Each Night—Must Be Present to Win: Gift Cards, Dinner & Rockets Tickets! Register at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events



LWFC KIDZ PUPPET MINISTRY

Puppet Ministry rehearsals are **Saturdays 10 a.m. –12 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m.** in the Children’s Wing. For more information, contact Mrs. Sylvia Edwards at sedward@lwfellowshipchurch.org



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

LWFC is seeking a *part-time receptionist*. Submit resume to: goneal@lwfellowshipchurch.org



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

Enriched

Philippians 4:15-19

Full sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the “Resources” tab and click “Sermon Notes”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children’s wing.

Ages 2—6th grade



SERMON OUTLINE

Enriched Philippians 4:15-19

A. Sold Out (vs. 15-16):

1. These believers were deeply committed to Paul's ministry, and even though they were impoverished (2 Corinthians 8:1-6), they gave faithfully even when other churches didn't.
2. The Macedonians were among the first on Paul's second mission trip (Acts 16:12-40) to hear and receive the "good news of salvation from Jesus Christ."
3. Paul had to leave Macedonia in a hurry (Acts 17:14). Despite this incident they still gave.
4. Sharing in the mission that Christ gave Paul was directly related to the matter of giving. The churches seeing the need to share is the same as someone paying a debt.
5. By supporting Paul, they invest in the work of the spreading of the Gospel to the Gentiles. However, no other churches did this, only the Macedonians.
6. The Macedonians were so committed that even when Paul went to Thessalonica, they followed him there to make sure whatever he lacks, it was sufficiently supplied.

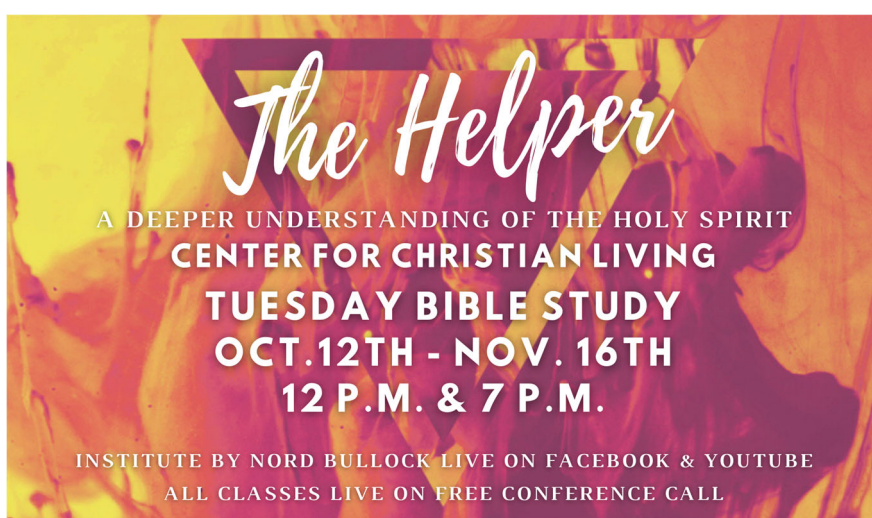
B. Shared Blessings (vs. 17-18a):

1. Paul wants these believers to know that even though he truly appreciates their commitment to the cause of the Gospel, he is personally, in his heart, not eagerly making every effort to intelligently find ways to demand they send a gift to him. Paul had learned contentment (4:10-13).
2. Paul is going to make it a habit to eagerly strive with every effort for them to gain spiritually for the sacrifices they begged with much urging to provide (2 Corinthians 8:4). He writes about this spiritual fruit (profit) in 2 Corinthians 9:10-15.
3. Paul is also going to make it a habit to develop an abundance of credit on their account, before God, which is indicated in Luke 6:38 and to the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 9:10-12.
4. What was delivered by Epaphroditus was an overflow for Paul's ministry efforts. It was exceedingly over the normal amount Paul would need.
5. Paul has been filled to the point of abundance for his ministry efforts

C. His Riches (vs. 18b-19):

1. Their sacrificial gift and passion to see Paul's ministry accomplish the Lord's purposes create a pleasant odor that is regarded like perfume before God (Lev. 1:9, 13, 17; 2:2, 9).
2. This kind of purposeful sacrificial giving is divinely approved because it is accepted by God (it is welcomed by God), and it creates favorable responses from God.
3. God is pleased when believers are committed to make sure that His agenda is bounty fully supplied, and when they go to extreme efforts to make sure that this is accomplished. The Macedonians found Paul, identified with his afflictions, and even though they were poor they made sure that they supplied Paul with an abundance of what he needed to spread the Gospel. "My" - This supplied to the text a personal touch (1:3).
4. Paul's desire is for God to comprehensively provide for the Macedonians all they are lacking and need built up in their lives.
5. God's supply, Paul states, will be directly related to the abundance of His possessions. Rich here means material wealth which the Macedonians lack (2 Corinthians 8:1-3).

6. The riches of God magnify the perfect, excellent, divine nature of God. It is a self-revelation of the powerful ability of God. They may do nothing more than they did to provide for their families, but God can take what they are doing and supernaturally make it become great riches. This exposes the excellent nature of God.
7. When God's kingdom plan is enriched, He blesses us because by blessing us it empowers His kingdom agenda even more.



PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Larry Black & family, Marie Perkins & family, Mignette Dorsey & family, Joseph Sharpe & family, and Alonzo Mims & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Eric White, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Linda Rainey, and Nikisha Doyle.



PHILIPPIANS 4:15-19