

## Enriched

Philippians 4:15-19

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### A. Sold Out (Vs. 15-16):

1. You yourselves know; See – Because these believers were deeply committed to Paul’s ministry and viewed themselves as being blessed because of it, and continually gave [even though they were impoverished (2 Corinthians 8:1-6)] towards the furtherance of the ministry, they had a full divine experiential understanding of the level of involvement of other churches.
  - a) It was 10 years ago when Paul shared the gospel with them and nurtured them to spiritual maturity.
2. The first preaching of the gospel – 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. After I left – Paul had to leave Macedonian in a hurry (Acts 17:14). The Jews had started a riot because of the teachings of Paul (Acts 17:1-9).
4. No church shared - koinoneo (#2841) - No church shared a sense of ownership for the purposes to which Paul was called.
  - a) In Thessalonica the church was a very good church with a strong reputation (1 Thess. 1:3-10). Even this church did not do like the church of Macedonia (2 Cor. 8:1-16).
5. Giving - 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.
  - a) The gifts sent to Rome through Epaphroditus are the latest in a long and consistent pattern of generosity. (2 Cor 8:1-5)
6. And receiving - Paul is addressing this issue using business terms. Paul seems to view his commission as something that churches should become fiscally engaged in. These churches would then accept gifts for this cause and then use these gifts to make Paul’s divine call amply supplied. 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.
7. My needs - 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. Not that I eagerly seek the gift – 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. He seems to be implicitly implied that he is not constantly striving to get this from them. With the gift or without the gift Paul is going to keep on doing the will of God with contentment (4:10-13).
  - a) Paul's fear of being misunderstood when he speaks about receiving gifts appear again and again, no doubt because his enemies were constantly misconstruing his motives. (2 Cor. 11:7; 12:14; 1 Thess. 2:3, 5, 8).
2. Seek for the profit - Paul is going to make it a habit to eagerly strive with every effort for them to gain spiritually for the sacrifices they begged for with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, (2 Corinthians 8:4). He writes about this spiritual fruit (profit) in 2 Corinthians 9:10-15). Because the word for profit is the same word for fruit, it is directly related to the fruit that comes from the ministry of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.
  - a) Right giving always enriches the giver. "The liberal soul will be fat" (Prov. 11:25). "He who pities the poor lends to the Lord" (Prov 19:17). "Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain Mercy" (Matt. 5:7). "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7).
3. Increases to your account – 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.
  - a) 'Your account' - Everyone has an account (Luke 6:38).
4. I have received everything in full – Paul continually has in hand everything the Macedonians sent with Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus has successfully and completely delivered everything.
5. Have and abundance; surplus – What was delivered by Epaphroditus was an overflow for Paul's ministry efforts. It was exceedingly over the normal amount Paul would need.
  - a) The word "abound" in the Greek speaks of that which exists in superfluity. The Philippian gift must have been generous, and Epaphroditus must have been loaded down. What a demonstration of the work of the Holy Spirit seen in this act of generosity.

6. I am amply supplied – Paul has been filled to capacity to the point of abundance for his ministry efforts.
  - a) Paul said he had everything in full, but he is in jail with death looming (1:21-26).
7. Having received from Epaphroditus – Paul repeats that he has received what was sent. Seems like he is emphasizing that Epaphroditus has successfully completed the task given to him.

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

1. Fragrant aroma – Their sacrificial gift and passion to see Paul’s ministry accomplish the Lord’s purposes create a pleasant odor that is regarded as sweet smelling before God as was in the case of the acceptable offerings in the Old Testament as described in the book for Leviticus (Lev. 1:9, 13, 17; 2:2, 9).
  - a) The term “fragrant offering” was used in Leviticus (in the LXX) for an offering that pleased God. It also was used in Ephesians 5:2 of Christ’s offering of Himself.<sup>[1]</sup>
2. Acceptable sacrifice – 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.
  - a) They are comparable to the thanks-offering of Abel (Gen 4:1), of Noah (Gen 8:21), of the Israelites when in the proper frame of mind, they brought whole-burnt-offerings (Lev 1:9, 13, 17), and of believers generally in dedicating their lives to God (Romans 12:1; 2 Cor. 2:15, 16), as did Christ, in a unique manner (Eph 5:2). The acceptance of the offering, however, is depended on the motive of the one who brings it (Gen 4:1-15; Heb 11:4).
3. Well pleasing; acceptable – God is pleased when believers are committed to make sure that His agenda is bountifully supplied, and when they go to extreme efforts to make sure that this is accomplished. In the Old Testament the animals had to meet Levitical standards and the priest had to execute God’s ceremonial laws meticulously. It was a deliberate effort, no matter the cost, focused on completely honoring God’s Word. 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.
  - a) Acceptable... pleasing to God -- because of Christ’s work for us

(1 Pet 2:5) and God's work in us (Phil 2:13)

4. "My" This supplied to the text a personal touch (1:3).
5. God will supply all you needs – Paul's desire is for God to comprehensively provide for the Macedonians all they are lacking and need built up in their lives.
6. According to His riches – 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).
  - a) God's wealth is limitless, it is therefore, impossible to exhaust it by all needs combined.
7. In glory – The riches of God magnify the perfect, excellent, divine nature of God. It is a self-revelation of the powerful ability of God. This is vividly displayed when despite their poverty and maybe inability on their own to gain great wealth, God will provide by His supreme power all that the Macedonia's lack in a supernatural way. They may do nothing more than they did to provide for their families, but God can take what they are doing and supernatural make it become great riches. This exposes the excellent nature of God.
8. In glory – When God's kingdom plan is enriched, He blesses us because by blessing us it empowers His kingdom agenda even more.

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<sup>11</sup> Lightner, R. P. (1985). [Philippians](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 665). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.