

LESSON 7

GIVERS AND GIFTS

PHILIPPIANS 4:10–23



1 Describe the most meaningful gift you have ever received.



Read Philippians 4:10–23 and the following notes:

☐ 4:10 ☐ 4:10–14 ☐ 4:12, 13 ☐ 4:17 ☐ 4:18 ☐ 4:19 ☐ 4:22 ☐ 4:23

2 Describe the changes in Paul's financial condition throughout his life. How did he react to those changes?

3 What was Paul's attitude toward the gifts from the Philippian believers?

4 What does the phrase “from his glorious riches” suggest concerning God’s ability to meet our needs? What does it say about the process he uses?

5 What key principles of biblical stewardship are presented in this passage?



Paul took time to thank the Philippians for their generous gifts to him and the church at Jerusalem. And he explained how to be content in any circumstance. The Philippians were good examples of what it means to care for each other. God wants us to care for each other too, and to recognize that he is the one behind every gift. When we become too concerned about hanging on to what we have, we cannot be used to help others in need. When we are too ashamed to admit our own needs, we cannot be used to bless others who feel led to give. Only when we look at our life from God’s perspective can we experience the complete joy of giving and receiving. How’s your perspective?

6 What kinds of gifts has your church given to those in need?

7 How have Christians been generous toward you?

8 Why is stewardship a difficult area for many churches to deal with effectively?



9 What can you do to understand stewardship better and to evaluate your giving patterns?

10 Why is it difficult for people to share their needs openly and honestly with fellow believers? Why is this attitude wrong?



11 What changes do you need to make in your giving habits?

A What does it mean to be content in every circumstance? How can we develop the ability to be more content?

B It seems inevitable that our circumstances will affect how we feel, think, and act. How did Paul rise above whatever was happening to him, whether good or bad?

C What can believers do to draw on the strength of Christ? What will he not help us do? What will he help you do that you never realized before?

D What kind of offering or sacrifice was Paul referring to in 4:18? What does this example suggest about God's response to Christian giving?

E Why does Paul refer to the other Christians around him as brothers? What does this tell us about the nature of the church?

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