

Philippians

Part 13

Proper Motivations for Giving

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Starter Question

- From Sunday's sermon, what did you **like best**, or what **caught your attention most**—and **why**?

Observation—What does it say? Complete this chart of contrasting views regarding money...

	Worldliness says...	God says...
① 1 Corinthians 6:19–20		
② 1 Timothy 6:18		
③ Hebrews 13:5		
④ 1 Timothy 6:10		
⑤ Luke 12:15		
⑥ Acts 20:35		
⑦ Matthew 6:19–20		

Interpretation—What does it mean?

- How might you summarize your seven observations from the first column ("**Worldliness says...**") into a "**worldview**" (i.e. into a comprehensive understanding of reality and humanity's relation to it)?

How would you summarize a worldview from your seven observations in the "**God says...**" column?

Application—What do I do with this?

- How are you doing on those seven distinctions between worldliness and godliness?
Place the numbers 1 through 7 on the following continuum, where ① speaks of your view of **Ownership vs. Stewardship**, ② reveals your opinion of the **Purpose of Wealth**, ③ speaks of your **Source of Security**, ④ indicates your **Heart Attachment**, ⑤ reveals how you **Measure Value**, ⑥ speaks of your view of **Getting vs. Giving**, and ⑦ is your perspective **Temporal vs. Eternal**.



- Are you satisfied with your **current** worldview responses to questions of wealth? Why or why not?
Which of those seven perspectives do you find most troubling—and why?
Which of those seven perspectives have changed the most since you began attending TCC?

Sermon Summary

Main Text: Philippians 4:10-23

In this final section of his letter to the Philippians, Paul addresses the support that he has received from the church at Philippi. Paul alluded to this earlier in his letter (1:4–5; 2:25). From Paul's letter, we learn a lot about how pastors should talk about money with their congregation. In the passage before us today, we find a wonderful theology of giving and receiving that everyone, pastors and church members alike, should carefully consider. The Philippians were models of giving, and Paul was a model of receiving!

I. Be thankful for the generosity of God's people. (v. 10)

Paul begins by thanking God for the generosity of the Philippian church. The Philippian church had given Paul money on several occasions, but apparently, something interrupted that pattern. It wasn't that their concern or desire stopped, but something interfered with their ability to act on it (2 Cor. 8:1–5). But once the Philippians heard that Paul was under an extended house arrest in Rome, they immediately sent Epaphroditus with money to help. And Paul was grateful for their generosity.

II. Pursue a life of contentment. (v. 11-13)

Over the years Paul had learned to be content and to rejoice in whatever circumstances he found himself in. He is talking here about a contentment that transcends our circumstances. There are two words in verse 11 which are vitally important—the words “learned” and “content.” Paul had to endure many difficult life experiences in order to learn the secret of contentment. It is a trait we acquire as we constantly look to God for wisdom and provision in times of need and difficulty. The word translated into English as “content” implies an inner satisfaction with one's circumstances or with what one has. Paul describes contentment as “Christ-sufficiency”, not “self-sufficiency.” In Christ we have all that we need. He is our provider and sustainer. Our hope is in Him! In every circumstance, the content Christian trusts God to provide for his/her needs. Paul was grateful for the Philippians' provision and rejoiced because their gift expressed their love and concern for him, and for gospel ministry.

III. Recognize the relationship between financial support and gospel partnership. (v. 14-16)

The proper mindset towards kingdom giving realizes that the success of kingdom ministry does not depend upon us. It depends upon God. But... we are important partners in it! We should view kingdom giving as a privilege and a partnership, not as a burden. When a pastor sees his people's giving, he knows they are beginning to understand the spiritual and eternal importance of giving.

IV. Understand the spiritual and eternal importance of giving. (v. 17)

When a pastor thinks about his people's giving, his thought should be, “How like Christ they are becoming!” Because he knows that when people give money, it's because God has become more important to them than the money. Which is the biggest factor in determining your security—money or your relationship with God? The one who gives generously and trusts his financial future to God shows that his spiritual account is growing because God is becoming a bigger factor in his life.

V. Trust in God's provision. (v. 18-20)

Paul compares our giving to an acceptable sacrifice offered to God. It is a fragrant aroma to Him. It pleases Him greatly. Furthermore, Paul assures us that as we give, God will supply our needs. With respect to the Philippian Church, Paul received their gifts, not as a paid preacher, but as a privileged priest who offered them as a fragrant sacrifice to God, and he was confident that God was going to give them even more in return. God supplies seed to the sower!

VI. Warmly greet God's people everywhere. (v. 21-23)

Paul is instructing us to warmly greet God's people everywhere. Why? Because they are family. They are your spiritual brothers and sisters. We are partners together in what God is doing in the world. We are a family, and we are partners in ministry. Because of our shared faith, we have this instant connection. This instant bond. ***The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit! Amen!***

Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time

Contentment is a Christ-empowered, learned grace that shines most brightly under trial. Jeremiah Burroughs' classic book (from 1648), The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment, guides us in the spiritual discipline of finding satisfaction in God, regardless of circumstances. It is available free on-line at <monergism.com>. Here is a brief study of its content:

Monday—The Nature of Contentment: True contentment is a quiet submission to God's will, born from trust and humility.

- Philippians 4:11–13 – Contentment must be learned through experience and reliance on Christ's strength.
- 1 Timothy 6:6 – True wealth lies not in possessions but in a heart at peace with God.
- Psalm 131:2 – Illustrates the peaceful submission of a believer who has ceased struggling against providence.

Tuesday—The Mystery of Contentment: Contentment is a spiritual secret available only through union with Christ.

- Colossians 3:3 – The believer's peace is hidden in Christ, not in outward circumstances.
- John 14:27 – Christ's peace is unlike the world's — inward, spiritual, and unshakable.
- Hebrews 13:5 – Contentment flows from the unchanging presence of God.

Wednesday—The Art of Contentment Amid Affliction: Afflictions are instruments of divine love, not grounds for complaint.

- Romans 8:28 – Every circumstance, even painful ones, serves God's redemptive purpose.
- 2 Corinthians 4:17 – The believer views trials in light of eternity, making contentment possible.
- Job 1:21 – Job is a model of humble acceptance.

Thursday—Learning Contentment: Contentment is learned through humility, dependence, and proper valuation of things.

- Matthew 6:25–34 – Contentment grows by trusting God's care and seeking His kingdom above material needs.
- Proverbs 30:8–9 – The contented heart seeks sufficiency, not excess.
- Lamentations 3:24 – The believer finds satisfaction in God as his portion, not in worldly gain.

Friday—The Evils of Murmuring and Discontent: Discontent dishonors God, poisons the soul, and contradicts faith.

- Philippians 2:14 – Murmuring reveals rebellion against providence.
- Numbers 11:1 – Discontent provokes divine displeasure, as seen in Israel's wilderness grumbling.
- James 4:6 – Pride fuels discontent; humility invites grace.

Saturday—The Excellent Beauty of Contentment: Contentment honors God, blesses others, and brings joy to the soul.

- Isaiah 26:3 – The fruit of a steadfast, trusting heart is perfect peace.
- Psalm 37:7 – Quiet waiting is the posture of contentment.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – Gratitude transforms circumstances and reveals contentment's beauty.