

**Introduction:** Today's message is especially for people in God's family through Jesus The Savior. But the truths found in it should be known by all people, even people who do not claim to follow Jesus in fully surrendered faith. \*\*\* It contains one of the most misunderstood and wrongly applied promises in The New Testament, namely: 'My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory'. Many professing Christians think this is a blank check from God to them that they will never be in need because they have prayed a prayer asking God to forgive them because of what Jesus did for them on The Cross. But since the initial prayer they have more or less gone on with their lives, skimming The Bible from time-to-time, going to church when they feel like it, and praying whenever they are in trouble. \*\*\* They have not grown into Christ-likeness: loving God's people with sacrificial love, sharing Christ in a thoughtful and Spirit led way with their neighbors, and putting their God and Savior in the center of their heart and soul to guide them in their lives every moment of every day. This describes me, and all of us, for seasons of time in our lives. \*\*\* Let's start with a quick summary of the passage. \*\*\* The church planting apostle Paul closes his letter to the church which always fully partnered with him in The Gospel work of The Lord Jesus Christ. He effusively thanks them for their financial gift to him which was in reality a sacrificial offering given fully and freely to God. Then he says The God who called and appointed him will fulfill all their needs according to His wealth. Next he leads them in all out true worship of their glorious God and Father. He concludes with a command to them to greet each saint IN The King who is Savior before giving a surprise in his closing greetings: through his imprisonment God has used him to bring members of Caesar's household into a cleansing relationship with God! \*\*\* We will now dig deeper.

**I. Paul is in receipt of their abundant, acceptable, sacrificial gift; and, God will fulfill all their needs IN The King Savior.**  
(Verses 18-19)

A. Paul is receiving everything, having been made full from their fragrant sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. (Verse 18)

1. But I am having from everything. (Verse 18a)

2. And I am having more than enough left over. (Verse 18b)

**Now:** Even though Paul had received the financial gift from Philippi some time before he wrote, he is using present tense verbs to express the impact of their gift on his ministry and mission.

3. Having received from Epaphroditus, I have been made full. (Verse 18c)

**Three verbs:** The verbs Paul used are: having from, more than enough, and made full. Together they fully lay out the reason Paul is thanking them for their full participation in his Gospel work.

**Epaphroditus:** He is the fellow worker and soldier who almost died because of an illness he got as he traveled to Rome with the financial gift from Philippi. But Paul is sending him back so his brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ can see he is now recovered. (2:25-30)

4. (He brought) your fragrant sacrifice of good aroma, acceptable, well-pleasing to God. (Verse 18def)

**Burnt offering:** This is language 'aroma pleasing' (NIV) is used of the burnt offering from the days of Moses and Aaron. J. B. Lightfoot noticed this language similarity in his 1862 commentary on *Philippians*. The burnt offering is first described in *Leviticus*, and this phrase is used three times in that description. (*Leviticus 1:9,13,17*) The phrase is also used with burnt offerings for the ordination of priests (*Exodus 29:18; Leviticus 8:21*); for the burnt offering on the day of the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost, *Leviticus 23:18*); and, for the twice daily burnt offerings in the morning and evening (*Leviticus 28:1-8*). It was a voluntary act of worship; but, because all of the animal was burned on the altar, it expressed total devotion, surrender and commitment to Yahweh.

B. And, he says God will fulfill all their needs according to His wealth IN The King Savior. (Verse 19)

1. But my God will make full (fulfill) your every need. (Verse 19a)

**Who:** This promise is addressed to a local church that had fully partnered in every way with a God-sent church planter. This included sacrificial financial giving, as well as prayers and workers. Although this is a specific promise to a first century Macedonian local church, it would seem that local churches today that are united in sacrificial giving to support all God-ordained workers seeking to bring The Gospel of Jesus to those who have not yet heard The Good News of God's Son, The Savior, would be on solid Biblical ground to ask God to meet the needs of the church. However, this is not in any way a promise to every self-professing Christian. Lone-ranger Christians would be wrong to 'claim' it for themselves. And, neither may professing Christians who are not sacrificing together so all people may hear of Jesus and become disciples of His 'claim' it.

2. (He will fulfill needs) according to His wealth in glory IN Christ Jesus. (Verse 19b)

**How:** God has all the wealth in the universe. He can give it to whomever He wants to give it. It is according to the riches of this One that their needs are fulfilled in His glory.

**Where:** To receive this promise, people must be fully IN The King Who IS Savior. So, those who are not wholehearted disciples of Jesus, obeying all He commanded by faith in joy, are not in the right place to 'claim' this promise.

**Putting it together:** Paul gives a wonderful promise from his God to his beloved church in Philippi. But, from what he wrote earlier in this letter, they had fully shared with him as partners from the day the church began under Paul's ministry. And, just now, to continue this fully committed partnership they sacrificially gave of themselves (2 *Corinthians 8:1-5*) so he could continue to bring the Gospel where it had not been heard or known. What are we doing? I know I am falling short of the Philippian standard. However, *those who sacrifice for The Gospel have their needs met IN Christ*.

## II. Paul gives eternal glory to our Father; and, commands they greet each saint while sharing greeting from saints in Rome. (Verses 20-22)

A. But to God our Father: glory 'into the eternity of the eternity' – it is true! (Verse 20)

**Inclusion:** Paul is including all of his brothers and sisters in Philippi who have shared in The Gospel ministry with him as one, together in Father God, to join him in worship.

**Glorify:** When Moses reminded God's people about the day they had received God's ten words of commandment when Yahweh came down to Mt. Sinai, they cried out, 'Behold, The LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire' (Deuteronomy 5:1-30, verse 24)

And, the heavens declare the glory of God. (Psalm 19:1)

*Our Father is glorious*

**Hebrew:** The phrase 'into the eternity of the eternity' is expressed as 'to forever and eternity' many times in the Hebrew Bible. (A few notable times are: Exodus 15:18; Psalm 9:5; 111:8; and Micah 4:5)

**True!!!:** It is true is the English translation of the Hebrew word *āh-māne'*.

**Application:** May we all worship The Glorious God of grace, truly into all eternity.

B. Greet each saint in Philippi IN The Savior King; the brothers with me are greeting you as are all the saints, but especially those from Caesar's house. (Verses 21-22)

1. You all must greet each saint IN Christ Jesus. (Verse 21a)

**Singular:** They are all commanded to greet each and every person in the church being made holy by the grace of God, The Father. This will strengthen the unity Paul said would result from obeying his command to make his joy complete. (2:1-4)

**IN The King Savior:** Again, the obedience and the result are only for those who are located fully IN The King Who IS Savior.

2. The brothers with me are greeting you all. (Verse 21b)

**Brothers** These would be the members of Paul's church-planting team who were with him in Rome as he wrote this letter. Paul had some thirty-six named members of his team. (You may request a table from me that has all the names, and the source of the 1970 paper I used to create the table.)

3. All the saints are greeting you, but especially those from of the household of Caesar. (Verse 22)

**Radical:** Think of how radical and unexpected this is! A prisoner turns mighty Caesar's world upside down by putting people in the world right-side up with God! (Acts 17:1-10, KJV) This happened in part because his partners in The Gospel sent him a sacrificial gift.

**Application:** May we be a church where God meets every need because we gladly give sacrificially to bring The Gospel to the most unlikely places.

*Those who sacrifice for The Gospel have their needs met IN Christ*

## III. The grace of The Lord Jesus (be) with the spirit of all of you. (Verse 23)

**Benediction:** Paul now gives his last 'good-word', i.e., benediction.

**Grace:** As usual, Paul closes his letters as he begins them, with God's grace. Grace is an undeserved favor or blessing given out of the character of the giver. Because God is strong LOVE, He desires that people would respond to His LOVE to be rescued from sin and darkness into His Kingdom of Light and Righteousness.

*The Father of The Lord Jesus is gracious*

**Their single spirit:** Paul trusted that their Father God, IN His Son who is King and Savior, will unite their spirit into Christ-likeness in answer to his prayers and commands given in this letter; then, The Holy Spirit will continue to move them to sacrificially give of themselves so all will have opportunity to receive The Gospel of The Savior and be adopted as God's children.

**United to bear fruit for Jesus:** Jesus said that IF His disciples would remain IN Him, then they would bear much fruit for Him. (John 15)

**Communion:** As we partake of the sacrament of Communion may we be brought into true unity in The One whose death on our behalf we remember – and in which we participate.

*Those who sacrifice for The Gospel have their needs met IN Christ*

**Conclusion:** Paul thanks his Gospel partners for their sacrificial and generous financial gift to him so he can advance The Gospel even while chained to soldiers in Rome; and he says God will meet all their needs in the wealth of His glory IN The Messiah Savior. This causes him to invite them to join with him in true worship of their Father God: giving Him eternal glory. In closing, he mentions in passing that God has made saints of some who serve Caesar. His benediction is that they have a unified spirit in the grace of The Lord.

*Those who sacrifice for The Gospel have their needs met IN Christ*