

GOSPEL GIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY

(Philippians 4:15-20)

For the glory of God, in obedience to Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we, as a Church, strive together to fulfill this mission: *We are a Gospel-Commissioned, Disciple-Making Church which Proclaims God's Word, Equips God's People and Witnesses to the Lost.*

If we are truly committed to fulfill our Mission, we must seriously consider the role of financial stewardship in the context of generous giving towards the work of the Lord in finishing the Great Commission through the gospel ministry of His Church. Financial stewardship is faithful discipleship (Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Chron. 29:12). Furthermore, financial stewardship is gospel giving for the glory of God. As we look at Paul's personal letter of gratitude to the Philippian church, let's reflect on these three biblical principles of gospel giving.

1. Begin with the _____ and let it _____ your giving.

Christian giving glorifies God when it is motivated by the gospel of God's saving grace and redemptive generosity in Christ (Phil. 4:15; 2 Cor. 8:1-2,9). The Philippian church was not a stingy church. It was a generous church which supported the gospel ministry of Paul in spite of its poverty. The only explanation for such generosity is that the believers in this church had truly grasped the gospel of God's generous grace in saving them. Our generosity in giving to the work of the Lord is but a grateful response to the greatness of God's saving love in Christ (Phil. 2:6-8).

2. Be committed to _____ giving.

Paul describes the generous giving of the Philippian church as their faithful partnership in the gospel (Phil. 4:15-16; 1:3-5). From its infancy as a church and even ten years later, the Philippian believers never wavered in their commitment and devotion to faithfully extend their generosity to Paul's gospel ministry. Consequently, Paul reminds them their generosity is bearing fruit and eternal reward (Phil. 4:17). As we faithfully and generously give what rightfully belongs to God, we are laying up treasures in heaven (Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:8-10; Matt. 6:19-20; Luke 6:38). Furthermore, our gospel giving glorifies God when it is offered unto Him as our fragrant worship which is pleasing and acceptable to the Lord (Phil. 4:18; Luke 7:36-50).

3. Believe God's promise of _____ provision.

When God's people faithfully and generously give towards His kingdom purposes, He promises us, His church, that He would sufficiently supply every need we have according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). God promises incalculable blessings which go beyond material blessings. God's promise points us to the infinitely glorious spiritual and eternal blessings which await the people of God in His eternal kingdom. Ultimately, generous giving for the sake of Christ and His gospel banners the glory of God our Father (Phil. 2:20).
