

## Philippians 4:14-23

### The Heart of Generosity

Paul concludes his letter by expressing gratitude for the Philippians, as well as sharing words about God's provision.

> In verses 14-16, Paul expresses his gratitude for the Philippians' partnership with him. In what ways do you think their support impacted Paul in his ministry? It no doubt encouraged him and relieved him of some burden, especially during the time when they were the only church giving him support.

> Paul used terms of worship ("offering" and "sacrifice") to describe their gifts (v. 18). What does giving have to do with worship? And what words are used to describe how God receives such worship? Their giving was out of a desire to obey and please God. They were "fragrant," "acceptable and pleasing" to God.

> Paul describes the Philippians as "giving" people, yet he is confident that they will never lack in their own needs (v. 19). How can this be so? He knows God will meet their needs by His riches. So even if they are "giving" people, their needs will be met.

### Application

The Philippians give us a good perspective on generosity. Generosity is not about merely noticing the needs of others. Rather, generosity comes from us when we are willing to:

- Intentionally give real, tangible resources to clear needs that we are aware of.
- Sacrificially give with a heart of worship in response to the goodness God has shown us.

Paul's conclusion is a fitting end to his letter. He reminds the Philippians of God's goodness, which motivates each believer to live a life of obedience to God. He also reminds them of God's grace (v. 23), which is the same grace offered to us, and the grace that enables us to live our lives for His glory!

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