

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for March 15-16, 2003**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"The Philippians' Gift to Paul"**

**Philippians 4:10-20**

What did Paul's thank you to the Philippians involve?

Thanking the Philippians involved telling them how their gift made him feel.

Thanking the Philippians also involved clarifying that their expression of care was a greater benefit for them rather than for him (Philippians 4:11-17).

Paul began this clarification by looking at the benefit of their gift to himself (Philippians 4:11-13).

Paul, in essence, was telling the Philippians that he saw very little personal benefit in them giving him this gift.

Paul saw very little personal benefit to himself because he did not see their gift or any other earthly circumstance as critical in achieving the ultimate goal of his life.

The ultimate goal of Paul's life was to get to know Christ better and ultimately perfectly at the resurrection from the dead.

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As long as Paul was able to keep his heavenly focus and demonstrate steady progress toward his goal, he was content in every circumstance.

Paul's secret of contentment and his ability to maintain his heavenly focus was dependant upon the strength of Christ.

Paul concluded his clarification by looking at the benefit of the gift to the Philippians themselves (Philippians 4:14-17).

The word "share" (SUNKOINONEO) means "to participate in something with someone, become partners with."

The Philippians had become partners with Paul in his present affliction by sharing the expenses of his imprisonment.

In order to demonstrate for the Philippians their unique partnership with him in this matter of giving and receiving, Paul supplies two examples (Philippians 4:15-16).

Paul's first example of their unique partnership with Paul in the matter of giving and receiving was their gift to him after he left Macedonia (Philippians 4:15).

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Paul's second example of their unique partnership with Paul in the matter of giving and receiving was their gifts to him before he left Macedonia (Philippians 4:16).

The word "profit" (KARPOS), which can be literally translated "fruit" in this context, refers to the advantage that is gained in a business transaction.

The word "increases" (PLEONAZO) means to superabound.

The Philippians' generosity was a concrete demonstration that they were getting to know Christ better and would one day know Him perfectly at the resurrection.

When we receive money we are benefited materially but when we give money generously we are benefited by confirming that we are heaven bound.