

Philippians 4:18–20

“The Glorious, Gracious Fruit of Christian Generosity”

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<sup>18</sup> Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Main Idea:** True Christian generosity bears the fruit of plenty for God’s saints, praise unto God, pleasing God, provision from God for the giver, and parental and perpetual glory unto God.

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Philippians chapter 4 are portions versus 18 through 20. Let's pray.

Her father and ourselves. We have it's nothing but weakness and wickedness deserve nothing but curse but in Christ you have not only counted him as our righteousness. So that we may have the blessing that he deserves that, you have even granted unto us his strength, his life is goodness to be in us by your spirit, who pray that your spirit would help us.

Now, and that as we think about what fruit comes from Christian generosity that you would make us to desire. These things that you would make us desire Christ above all in his glory and your glory. In him that we might consider ourselves. Well, repaid by the fruit that comes of our generosity in him.

So help us as we study, we pray in Jesus name. Amen. Philippians chapter 4 verses 18 through 20. These are God's words. Indeed, I have all and abound. I am full having received from a paforiditis of things sent from you a sweet, smelling, aroma and acceptable sacrifice Well pleasing to God.

And my God, shall supply, all your need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever are men. Men indeed. So the apostle you remember at the end of last week's portion was saying that his rejoicing over the gift that the Philippians have sent him.

Not so much over the gift itself, but over the fruit that abounds to their account and he begins indeed in verse 18 and he's about to tell us what is some of that fruit, that abounds to the Philippians account for? Having been generous with Paul and their generosity? Having been used, not only for poles own supply, but for the work of the gospel and so forth, and he's about to tell us some of the things, some of the fruit that a bounds into the account of believers that God, having given it to them in Christ.

Now reckons unto them or responds to them for the sake of Christ, whenever we get to the next part of the Westminster confession of good works. One of the things we'll see there is that the good works of a Christian are not meritorious or not done well enough to deserve anything good, but they do come from Christ in us and they are rewarded according to Christ and his worthiness.

And so there is a reward of grace, not of merit for those things. And so as we think about fruit abounding to the account of believers, we're thinking about some of the things that for Christ's own sake. The Lord causes us to come out of our generosity and then responding to what he has caused to come out of our generosity.

He blesses us in response to Christ to be our worthiness as if it had come even from us the fruit bounds to our account. Well, the first part of it is plenty, plenty for Paul, Paul Paul knew how to have nothing and how to be a based, but that's not his situation anymore.

Is it according to verse 18, The Lord by the Philippians is sent him a gift and he's saying indeed, I have all and abound, I am full. So three different ways. He tells them that God who has given him in Christ, the ability the strength to be content with nothing.

Hasn't left him with nothing but the generosity of the Philippians is given them everything that he needs. And so we rejoice, when we have plenty and we rejoice to tell others when they have been generous with us, that God has used that generosity to make us to a bound to give us plenty.

The second thing is the praise of God. This is the the not just received from aphroditus the thing sent from you. And and he doesn't tell us what those things were perhaps financial. Perhaps some other sort of supply but he emphasizes what they are spiritually. A sweet smelling aroma and acceptable sacrifice.

Well, there are several places that we hear that kind of language. The first however, is in Genesis chapter 8, when Noah has just gotten off of the ark and would think about what the Lord has done. No, it is not offering sacrifices unto God that he may be saved.

Is he? He has just been shown an amazing salvation. Can you imagine even more than when he was on the ark? And he could hear the thunder and many of you have heard thunder and and and the rain, and many of you have heard way and a lot recently have you but nothing like Noah had heard but especially when he comes out of the ark and he looks around and he and his family are the only ones left on earth, what a great salvation, God had saved him with.

And now, because they took seven of the clean animals to start with, and they've been on the ark for a year. There are even more of those clean animals and he knows what they are for, for offering as a sacrifice of praise unto God. And that sacrifice, of course, looks forward to Jesus.

And that's the second place. I think especially that the apostle is reminding us of or at least the Holy Spirit in comparing scripture with scriptures reminding us of the first couple of verses of Ephesians chapter 5. Therefore be imitators of God as dear children and walk in love as Christ.

Also has loved us and given himself for us and offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma. And so, as we imitate God as dear children, we imitate especially the only begotten, son, and our walking in love to one. Another is an offering of praise upon to God, it doesn't have a toning value.

Christ's offering of himself, had a toning value, right? Ours, doesn't ours just praises God for the salvation that we have received. And so there's plenty for fall and there is a praise for God. And there is God's pleasure with them when we realized the way that Noah's sacrifice looked forward to Christ.

And so that is well pleasing to God. He views that which Noah offers after he gets off the ark and there is the picture that he has given Noah of his son and he's pleased with Noah for the sake of his son. And he's pleased with Noah sacrifice for the sake of his son.

So also not only is God praised by your loving one, another and being generous to what another but he sees his son and he is pleased with what he is producing in you by his grace likeness unto Jesus Christ. And so, there's plenty for Paul and there's praise unto God and there's the pleasure of God in and with the Philippians in whom he sees.

Now, the likeness of his son and there's also provision. Not just the provision for Paul though, there was that. But now, Paul turns around he says, you guys better get ready to about and my God shall supply, all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

You see, Christian generosity is counterintuitive. The unbeliever you know, his hand is tightened because he's afraid that he may impoverish himself by giving the Christian need to suffer. No such fear. Now there are those to whom you must give first and we mentioned this a couple of times as we've been moving through.

This passage the first believers. The first saints that you are responsible to be generous. With are those in your house especially if you are the head of a household. You may not take that which is necessary under your family and use it to be generous with others. Because if you don't take care of your house, the scripture says you've denied the faith and are worse than an unbeliever.

But in your giving to your family or your family's giving to others, or if you are not the head of a household and you have much more liberty to give outside of the house, the Christian need never worry about impoverishing themselves through generosity. Now, there is generosity, only, it's only generosity if it's good for the person.

We can't spend a lot of time in these afternoon lessons, but if you are hardening, someone in their laziness, or if you are giving them that, which you have reasonable expectation, will be squandered on that which is harmful to them. That's not generosity. But a Christian, a Christian when it is generosity.

When it's truly generous in the biblical way, need, not fear impoverishing himself, and my God, shall supply all your needs. Paul says to the Philippians according to his riches in glory by Christ's Jesus. And so he's saying by your giving to me and you're having need now. He's recognizing that Paul was in distress and they had enough but they decided to share in his distress, right?

That's as the language that he used a few verses ago and now Paul has enough but they have need he says but God is faithful. My God shall supply. God is shall supply all your need. God is rich according to his riches. So God is going to be shown as faithful, God is going to be shown as having all of the wealth and in all of his wisdom, everything belongs to him, God is going to be shown as glorious.

And God is going to be shown, most of all, all of these things to them in Christ by providing for them. So part of what abounds to the account of a Christian is being generous, is how God can continue to

meet their own needs, and despite the fact of Jared their generosity.

So, there's plenty for fall, there's praise unto God, there's God's pleasure with them. There's God's provision coming to them. And then, this is again, the praise of God. But it's, especially the paternal and perpetual phrase of God. Remember, Ephesians, 5:1 and 2. Walk in love, as beloved children, and Jesus imitating Christ to his who gave himself for us as a sweet smelling aroma.

And now he says, now to our God and father, in other words now, to the one who's family resemblance, you are displaying as you are generous. So there's the parental. Praise God prays for God as our father. Now to our God and father be glory forever and ever perpetual.

Praise because that likeness that God is producing in the Philippian believers as one that's going to be completed. They've been predestined to be conformed, to the image of the sun and those whom God justifies. He also glorifies. So Paul says that the beginning of the letter he who has begun a good work and you will bring it to completion and to the day of Christ Jesus and now he's saying that parental praise that God gets as he reproduces his image in you through your savior as one that will go forever and ever.

As that work is completed in making you like the Savior now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever on men. So Christian generosity bears. All of this wonderful fruit from Christ and is accounted to us on account of the worthiness of Christ. Praise God. Me tempt us as it were to be to walk in love and to be generous with one another.

Let's pray. We thank you. Our God. That you are the great and generous God who did not spare your unson but gave him up for us that you have. So loved the world that you gave your only begotten son, we thank you for the perfect display of that in Christ who loved us and gave himself up for us as his bride offering himself, not just for us but doing so unto you as us, sweet sacrifices, sweet, smelling aroma and pleasing to you and we pray.

Oh God, that you would get much glory, father, son and holy spirit by the ongoing work that you are doing in our lives. And especially, even by this part of that work, making us walk in, love, making us to be generous, making us, even when others are generous with us to desire that fruit like this unto, your glory would be reckoned into their account for.

We ask it in Christ's name, amen.