



**2016: Week 46**

Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> 2016

*"Giving and Receiving"*

**Philippians 4:15 & 17**

<sup>15</sup>You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of *giving and receiving* but you alone... <sup>17</sup>Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account" (NASB).

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On Sunday we finished our sermon series through the **Book of Philippians**, and in final section of the letter, you might say that Paul reminds his readers to continue living "above and beyond." The phrase "above and beyond" means doing much more than required. In regards to giving and providing for others' needs, the Philippians were exemplary, doing much more than required. The phrase "above and beyond" can also be applied to the Philippians more than just in the sense of their giving. The phrase illustrates how they lived, and it is a good reminder for how we too should live. We are called to live for Him who is "above," seeking to always honor our Heavenly Father and looking to Him for wisdom whenever making decisions. James reminds us: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (**James 1:5**). Similarly, we are to look "beyond" our circumstances. Paul reminds the Philippians that God will always provide for the believer's needs (**Philippians 4:19**), and the believer possesses a spiritual account to which the Lord can bless for faithful service (**Philippians 4:17**). The Philippians gave their money to support Paul's ministry needs, but they also received blessings from the Lord for their giving. Let's finish our study of Philippians this week and consider the Lord's economy of "giving and receiving."

**READ Philippians 4:10-23**

- In **Philippians 4:11-13**, Paul touches on the topic of contentment.
  - What does it mean to be content?
  
  - How does one *learn* contentment?
  
  - What situations, items, or people lead you astray from an attitude of contentment? Why?
  
  - What changes does the Lord need to make in your life, so that you live with more contentment?
  
- In **Philippians 4:15** Paul reminds the Philippians that they as a church were the only church who "shared with [him] in the matter of giving and receiving."
  - We already know the Philippians gave funds to support Paul. In what ways did they *receive* as a result of their giving?
  
  - Have you ever before considered God's economy of *receiving* His blessings when you give or serve?
  
- In **Philippians 4:17** Paul mentions that, in regards to their generous giving, he seeks for them "a profit which increases to [their] account."
  - What profit and what account is Paul referencing when he says this?
  
- When we give our time or money to the Lord, He will reward us in some way for our faithfulness. Sometimes we might actually get to see the Lord bless us during our lifetime. In other instances, however, we may never witness the rewards He has stored up for us until we are with Him in heaven. Be encouraged that the Lord wants to bless you, but also make sure that you have the proper motives and attitudes behind your giving and serving.
  - How can you seek to receive rewards from the Lord without making the rewards more important to you than the God who grants you the rewards?

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear Lord, thank You for the ultimate gift You have given to me— Abundant and Eternal Life through your Son, Jesus. Also as a believer, thank You that I can partake in Your economy of both giving and receiving. Help me to be a blessing to others for You. Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.