

**BROKEN CHAINS**  
**The Philippian Series #17**  
July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**TEXT:** Philippians 4:14-20

**CONSIDER THIS:** We have reached the conclusion of the **BROKEN CHAINS** series. Philippians contains some of God's most precious promises to us. Joy, peace and contentment are what God offers to those who wholeheartedly seek Him. Yet life being what it is, we often allow ourselves to be chained down by painful circumstances, fear, worry, resentment, depression, loss, guilt, regrets from the past, relationships in disarray, worldly thinking and disobedience to God's commands. In today's study we include a fourth promise: **PROVISION**. God will supply your needs. Trust Him. Obey Him. Wait upon Him. He will provide.

**GOD'S WORD TEACHES US ...**

**I JOY FOR THE GIVER**

- A) While Paul was very thankful for the Philippians' gift to him (4:18), he was especially interested in how their giving would benefit them. *Credited to your account* (4:17) means that God sees and **rewards** those who give biblically. These passages are worth considering and integrating into your thinking: Proverbs 11:24-25; Acts 20:35; II Corinthians 9:6-8.

You can't take anything with you to Heaven,  
but you can send it ahead! See Matthew 6:19-21.

- B) Biblical giving also joins us to the glories of ministry in the name of Jesus. Paul loved to be involved in church ministry because He loved Jesus Christ. We become God's **partners in ministry** when we give joyfully (Philippians 1:3-7).

No victorious military campaign, no athletic championship, no election to political high office,  
no creation of a successful business, no other great human endeavor will ever compare to  
the present joy and eternal satisfaction of actively participating in God's kingdom.  
If giving financially with joy joins me to this glorious cause then sign me up!

**II JOY FOR GOD (4:18)**

- A) God doesn't "need" our gifts, but He delights in them. When we give generously with joy, it is then that we are most like God. It pleases God to see His children imitate His character.
- B) Paul's terminology in 4:18b uses the sacrificial language of the Old Testament (Exodus 29:18; Psalm 51:19). Our financial gifts are to be given as a sacrificial act of **worship** toward God.

**III NEEDS VS. WANTS (4:19)**

- A) God gives you all that you need, and some of what you want. You will forfeit joy and contentment if you focus on wants. **NOTE:** Only an all-knowing God is in a position to perfectly know what you need. Even in seasons of loss it still stands true that God will meet your needs (II Corinthians 12:7-10).
- B) You can't out-give God. In Philippians 4:19 Paul was speaking to Christians who had given so sacrificially they were in need of God's extra provision. This promise is true: God will meet the needs of His people.

# PHILIPPIANS

## THIRTEEN KEYS TO BROKEN CHAINS

1. Remember my true identity in Christ, both as a slave and a saint (1:1)
2. There is power in a thankful heart. When I learn to be truly thankful everything takes on a new appearance (1:3-4).
3. All circumstances in my life are by Divine appointment. I can see the faithful hand of a good God when I learn to think biblically (1:12-13).
4. My trials can be a blessing to others; I must look beyond myself (1:14).
5. To exalt and glorify Christ through my trials is worth far more than personal ease (1:18, 20).
6. View all things with an eternal perspective. This life is short and this world is not my home. I am a citizen of heaven (1:23; 3:20).
7. Live in obedience to God's Word, it opens the door to peace and blessing (1:27-30). Disobedience robs me of joy.
8. I must strive, in a true humility, to be in right relationship with fellow believers (2:1-5; 4:2-3).
9. Biblical joy is a choice of the will because it is a perspective, a way I can choose to view things. It can generate wonderful emotions, but joy goes beyond feelings (3:1; 4:4).
10. Contentment need not be held captive by my circumstances. The work that God does in a yielded heart is able to give peace, contentment and joy (4:5-13).
11. God is a full-time teacher and desires to use all that happens in my life to help me learn (4:11). This is a process that takes time; it is not usually an on/off switch.
12. God is too wise to give me all that I want, and God is too loving to not give me all that I need (4:19).
13. God will never leave or forsake me, even when I fail (1:6, 4:5b).

To think biblically is to see chains be broken.