

REFLECTION

Lesson 18 Reflecting Praise

Philippians 4:19-23

GOD WILL SUPPLY OUR EVERY NEED.

"Paul promised that God would meet not their greed, but their need."

Kent Hughes

A. Heavenly inflation

"God would give them out of His riches because they had given out of their poverty:"

1. They **gave** what had been **entrusted** to them.
2. God would "fill up whatever was **empty**."

B. Heavenly riches

1. God's **incalculable** wealth
2. **In** Christ Jesus

PAUL THEN BURSTS INTO PRAISE AND WORSHIP.

**"We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee."**

William How

- A. He **closes** the letter by giving God the **glory** He so richly deserves.

- B. He **closes** with their **unity** with him because they worship the same God.
1. Unity/fellowship in the **gospel**.
Philippians 1:5
 2. Unity/fellowship in **circumstances**.
Philippians 1:7
 3. Unity/fellowship of the **Holy Spirit**
Philippians 2:1
 4. Unity/fellowship of desiring **unity** with Jesus.
Philippians 3:10
 5. Unity/fellowship of generous **sharing**.
Philippians 4:14

“The Philippians’ multifaceted participation in the gospel provides the theological and interpersonal background for understanding Paul’s letter to the Philippians.”

Kent Hughes

PAUL CONCLUDES HIS FINAL GREETING CAPITALIZING ON THIS VERY UNITY/FELLOWSHIP THEY HAVE TOGETHER.

- A. The unity through **faith** in Christ Jesus.
- B. All the saints bring **greetings**.
1. All the Roman Christians that were **around** him.
 2. The Christians within the **household** of Caesar.

“Yes! Though both the Philippians and Paul were under Roman oppression, there were brothers and sisters within Caesar’s wall who were on their side and praying for them.”

John Calvin

- a. The handpicked **guards**
 - b. The “household” who heard and **received** the Gospel
- C. What lesson can we **apply** to our lives?
- 1. **Everyone** we come in contact with is a potential “saint” in Christ Jesus.
 - a. People are **watching** us.
 - b. People are **listening** to us.
 - 2. We need to develop an **awareness** of our responsibility.
 - 3. We need to have an **awareness** even with our **“enemies.”**

PAUL THEN CLOSES HIS LETTER COMING FULL CIRCLE FROM HIS OPENING GREETING.

**To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.**

Philippians 4:20, 23

THOUGHTS AT THE END OF THE STUDY

1. As we began this study on the magnificent book of Philippians, we talked about how in light of all that God has done in our lives, it should affect our everyday actions and attitudes. List some of the things that God has done for you, big and small, even in the midst of difficulties, that would make you want to live more and more as a REFLECTION of Him?

2. We studied in the beginning the verse Philippians 1:27a that says "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." All of us have many "whatever happens" in our lives both good and bad. What are some of the takeaways from this study about how to "conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" in the "whatever happens" of life?

3. How do you think God has changed you as a result of this study?

4. In Reflection: What have you reflected about the character of God through this study? How can you better reflect the character of the Lord after completing this study?

