

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 30 August 2020

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 302

Immortal honours rest on Jesus' head,
my God, my portion and my living bread;
in him I live, upon him cast my care;
he saves from death, destruction and despair.

2 He is my refuge in each deep distress,
the Lord my strength and glorious
righteousness;
through floods and flames he leads me safely on
and daily makes his sovereign goodness known.

3 My every need he richly will supply,
nor will his mercy ever let me die;
in him there dwells a treasure all divine
and matchless grace has made that treasure
mine.

4 O that my soul could love and praise him
more,
his beauties trace, his majesty adore,
live near his heart, rest in his love each day,
hear his dear voice and all his will obey.

William Gadsby (1773-1844)

Reading: Philippians 4:10-23, ESV

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving

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and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Hymn: Praise! 894

Come, O fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise:
songs of God's abundant treasure,
sung by angel tongues above,
songs that tell the boundless measure
of my Lord's unchanging love!

3 Through God's grace I am his debtor-
daily I this thought renew!
Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love!
Take my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it from your courts above!

2 I remember God's great mercy:
by his help I've safely come;
and I know he will not fail me,
but will surely bring me home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger
wandering far away from God,
and, to rescue me from danger,
shed for me his precious blood.

Robert Robinson (1735-1790)

Prayer

Hymn: Praise 2! 5

God of grace, amazing wonder,
irresistible and free.

O, the miracle of mercy—

Jesus reaches down to me.

God of grace, I stand in wonder,

as my God restores my soul:

his own blood has paid my ransom;

awesome cost to make me whole.

3 God of grace, I stand astounded,
cleansed, forgiven and secure.

All my fears are now confounded

and my hope is ever sure.

God of grace, now crowned in glory,

where one day I'll see your face;

and for ever I'll adore you

in your everlasting grace.

2 God of grace, who loved and knew me

long before the world began;

sent my Saviour down from heaven:

perfect God and perfect man.

God of grace, I trust in Jesus,

I'm accepted as his own.

Every day new grace sustains me,

as I lean on him alone.

Jonathan Rea & Keith Getty

Sermon: Philippians 4:14-23 – Assurance for Joyful Givers

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (19)

An ordinary man shown generosity

“I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me” (10)

Verse 14: “Yet it was kind of you to share in my trouble.”

Paul assures the Philippians regarding their generosity and the value of their gift and then of God's generous supply to them.

Nothing that is done for God is ever wasted.

Unfortunately generosity and giving has been given bad press by so called tele-evangelists funding their lavish lifestyles.

When we hear Paul speak of generosity for and contentment in the gospel, you know that he isn't trying to fob you off in an attempt to line his pockets.

Paul makes some very big and bold promises and assurances to those who give cheerfully and willingly to the work of the Lord.

1. Assurances Regarding Giving

Paul sees them as partners in the gospel. He is grateful for their fellowship.

He sees it as part of an ongoing, active relationship as God's people seek to build God's kingdom, here on earth.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (1v3-5)

"You are partakers with me of grace." (1v7)

"Yet it was good of you to share my trouble" (14).

"No church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only" (15).

By giving support to his ministry, they were taking up fellowship with him as a partner in his present tribulations.

Paul held the Philippian church up as an example to be followed!

Remember Zacchaeus' response to the gospel?

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). What we do with our resources is a window into our souls.

"It was kind of you to share my trouble." = "You did good".

"And you Philippians yourselves know that at the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again" (15-16).

"In giving and receiving" = "recall the mutual exchange of services and afflictions which they had shared in the past" through their "partnership in the gospel from the first day." These are expressions of deepest joy and affection and friendship.

The Philippians continued to send people to Paul and support him financially even though he was over 30 hours away by foot.

“And when I was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need” (2 Corinthians 11:9)

We are to be generous people who use our generosity wisely. We are called, as God’s people to give to enable others to take the gospel to the lost.

“For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us” (2 Corinthians 8:3-5).

Tim Keller: “If we do not give away our money in remarkable proportions, we have not grasped (or we are not currently remembering) Christ’s generosity in saving us. Let’s put it more starkly: You will always give effortlessly to that which is your salvation, to those things which give your life meaning. If Jesus is the one who saved you, your money flows easily into his work, his people, his causes. If however, your real religion is your appearance or your social status or personal comfort or pleasure, your money flows most easily into those items and symbols.”

Such generosity is radically counter-cultural, we become full-fledged members of the fellowship of the gospel, and it means that we sense the same smile of God upon us that rested upon that generous little church in Philippi.

2. Assurances of Their Gifts’ Eternal Value

Verse 17: “Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.”

Peter O Brian: “creates compound spiritual interest credited to their account.”

When we are generous, we should be so with an eye to compounding spiritual interest until the return of Christ.

“Go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Matthew 19:21).

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:19, 20). Kent Hughes says, “The truth is, the only money we will see again is that which we give away. And that money will return with compound interest!”

“I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God” (18b).

What really pleases God – then, as now – is the generous, giving spirit of his people.

Romans 12:1: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." God wants us to recognise the grace of giving and the spiritual benefits that come along with it. Our attitude to our bank account is a good indicator of our attitude to God and of our spiritual health.

Is our sacrifice "acceptable and pleasing to God"?

3. Assurance that Their Needs Will be Met

Verse 19: "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Paul's logic is clear – this is a promise of supply for generous people, like the Philippians.

"My God" – Paul could say, with absolute confidence that his God – the God of the Philippians and of all Bible believing Christians – had repeatedly displayed his astonishing power in every conceivable circumstance, and that he would do the same for all his faithful, generous people.

Paul doesn't say that God will provide all your "greed" but all your "needs". He doesn't promise all that we think we need, but everything we truly need. This promise encompasses everything that is necessary to enable to live for Christ in this world – materially and spiritually.

"According to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (19b). As Gordon Fee says, "The Philippians' generosity toward Paul, expressed lavishly at the beginning of verse 18, is exceeded beyond all imagination by the lavish wealth of the eternal God, who dwells in glory full of riches, made available in Christ Jesus."

God's riches are infinite and can never be exhausted. They are "in glory" and they are "in Christ Jesus".

1:1 starts: "To all the saints in Christ Jesus" and Paul concludes, "In Christ Jesus". He is our beginning and our end.

His response is worship: "To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen."

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Hymn

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Frances J van Alstyne (1820-1915)

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight;
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Closing Prayer