

How and Why to Give to Others **Philippians 4:14-23**

How had the Philippians given to Paul? (14-16)

They gave from hearts that shared Paul's trouble (14).

The reason we can share others' troubles, is because Jesus Christ satisfies all of our heart needs (John 6:35).

They were the only church that gave to Paul (15).

Christians don't automatically give; if we don't put effort into having our hearts filled with Christ, we won't share others' troubles, and help them with their troubles.

They gave Paul money more than once (16).

The reason we can give to others again and again, is because Jesus Christ satisfies our hearts again and again.

How does Paul encourage them to keep giving? (17-20)

Their giving will increase their heavenly bank account (17).

The more we let Christ fill us so we give to others, the more joy we will have in Christ forever.

Their giving is a fragrant offering which pleases God (18).

When what we have in God frees us to give money or time or convenience, that shows everyone how great God is. So every time we give to someone else, God is pleased.

He encourages them that God will supply all their needs (19).

God promises to give us everything we need to have joy in Christ now and forever.

God supplies our needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus, which means that along with meeting our needs, he will also fill us with his glory.

As Paul thinks of how lavishly God pours his glory upon us he bursts out in worship (20).

How do we see giving in Paul's farewell? (21-23)

God's people are so filled with God's glory that we love to give each other greetings, and blessings.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Can you think of people you know who have troubles? Have you shared their troubles, and made them your own, and helped them? Why or why not?

Is it easier to share others' troubles when we experience Christ meeting our heart needs? Why or why not?

Do you agree that giving doesn't come automatically to Christians? That we need to put effort into having our hearts satisfied in Christ, so we will want to give to others? Why or why not?

Have you ever given to someone once or twice, but then stopped giving, even though they still had troubles? Was that because you are trying to be motivated by duty, or by impressing others — which don't motivate long-term?

Do you agree that if we are motivated by joy in Christ, we will be able to keep giving to others again and again? Why or why not?

How does it affect you to think that your Christ-centered giving to others will increase your joy in him forever?

How does it affect you to think that your giving to someone else displays God's worth, and so brings pleasure to God?

Have you let your own needs keep you from giving to others? How does the promise in verse 19 impact you?

What concrete act of giving is God calling you to take? Share this with each other, and pray for each other.

