



The Godly Church Provides

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: To be encouraged in our giving; during times of lack and during times of abundance; a church that supports the work of the ministry will have its need provided by God!

Read Philippians 4:10 - 13 - Doing All Things - Whether in Abundance or Lack!

- It is shameful how this portion of Scripture, specifically verse 13 is taken out of context so frequently and for the most worldly and flesh centered reasons!
- So many Believers march around buying temporal items of differing cost levels and then declaring - “I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me!” - not taking the time to recognize the context of the verse.
- Paul is clearly speaking as a minister that has known abundance and has dwelt in lack, known a full belly and has known hunger, yet for the sake of the Gospel - can do all things through Christ!
- This verse is not an excuse or a prophetic promise for poor stewardship, poor decisions and ungodly relationships - it IS a verse that is an affirmation that Christ will strengthen us for the Work of the Gospel, no matter what we face!

Read Philippians 4:14 - 4:16 - Partnering with Traveling Ministers!

- Paul’s writing here should exhort us, in our giving to those who travel to preach the Gospel!
- It is the fact that the Philippi Church, even in its infancy was a church that supported Paul in the Work of the Gospel, they knew the value of supporting the Gospel.
- When other churches were not able to help, Philippi faithfully gave allowing Paul to continue his mission and not continually struggle for resources.
- In much the same way, when a local church has those who travel to minister to the nations in their congregation, they should be sure to give generously to those ministers.

Read Philippians 4:17 - 4:20 - Gifts that Continue to Give - A Giving God that meets Our Needs!

- Paul is sure to let the faithful at Philippi know that it is for their blessing that he looks forward to their gifts - their giving is “fruit that increases to their credit”!
- He calls their gifts “a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God”!
- Extending his exhortation, Paul continues by telling the believers that God will supply every need of theirs. Needs being met out of their faithfulness!
- God supplies according to His Riches in Glory in Christ Jesus!
- Not all “needs” supplied will be of a financial nature, it may be spiritual, emotional or physical also.



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Have you ever fallen into the trap of taking Philippians 4:13 out of context?

- It is very possible, because of the unfortunate nature of some who teach this verse out of context in order to exhort people to giving and for self-centered gains!
- We give; not for our own self-centered gains and privileges; but for the Glory of God!
- We should not be frivolous in our stewardship using these verses as an “excuse”, but recognize the true power in these verses being that as long as we do the work of the Gospel - we have strength in Christ to accomplish it!

Question 2: In what ways can we as a local church continually support those who travel for the Gospel?

- We can sow into missions trip for those who are going for the first time or that may not be vocational traveling ministers, not knowing whether we may be helping someone called to full time missions work!
- We can sow into current full time vocational traveling ministries, helping financially, with our time and talents in areas such as administration and marketing (websites, social media, etc.)
- We can commit to praying for these ministries!

Question 3: Discuss the ways God has provided for your needs personally?

- When having this discussion, be sure to not limit it to just financial provision.
- Be sure to cover the areas of health, healing, deliverance, hope, peace, comfort and joy!
- Share any testimonies that will encourage one another in our giving, how has your responding to giving like the Church at Philippi been a blessing to your life?
- How can we encourage each other to be faithful givers on a consistent basis?

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data