

The Reign of Christ the King ~ Sunday, November 24, 2019

“Joy Ride: A Study of Philippians ~ Joyful Generosity”

Philippians 4:1-15-23

“And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)

“You can be sure that God will take care of everything you need, his generosity exceeding yours, in the glory that pours from Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19 MSG)

THIS PROMISE IS...

• _____ - “You can be sure...”

This isn’t just wishful thinking or even _____. God _____ that He’ll take care of everything we need, His generosity _____ ours.

• _____ - “...everything you need...”

God doesn’t promise to take care of just a _____ things, the important things, or the big things, but _____.

everything = *pas* =

• _____ - God’s promise is limited to our needs and not our _____.

need = *chreia* =

God doesn’t promise to _____ our every whim and desire; He doesn’t promise to give us everything we want, but rather those _____, legitimate things that we need in order to live.

• _____ - “according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

God doesn’t meet our needs according to our _____, holiness, perfection, or godliness, but rather according to _____ riches. And His giving is relative to the _____ of His eternal wealth. God has _____ resources with which to meet our needs.

Often God’s promises come with a _____ or premise. The promise of God supplying for all our needs is linked to our _____.

“...it was kind of you to share my distress. You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once. Not that I seek the

gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account. I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.” (Philippians 4:14-18)

“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us,” (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

Like joy, generosity is a _____. Am I going to be a _____ or a _____? Am I going to be generous or stingy?

The more we give—the more we make it about the needs of _____—the more _____ we’ll be. And the more we take—the more we make it about us and _____ for ourselves—the more _____ we’ll be.

“The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.” (Proverbs 11:24)

When I’m generous, it enlarges my _____, my perspective, my influence, and my _____.

TWO IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT GENEROSITY

• **It’s not just about _____.** God wants us to learn to live generously as a _____, in every area of our lives. It’s about living a life that’s _____—that puts others ahead of ourselves.

• **It’s not about an _____.** God doesn’t care so much about how much we give, but rather _____ and _____ we give. He cares about our _____ and attitude—about what’s going on in our _____ when we give.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

“The kind and generous man benefits himself.” (Proverbs 11:17)

We are going to get out of life what we _____ into it.

The Law Sowing and Reaping means the seeds that we plant today—either physically or spiritually—will determine the kind of _____ we'll reap in the future.

“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow.” (Gal 6:7)

Life is filled with _____, and every time we make a choice, we're planting a seed. These choices are not without significance, and every choice we make has a _____.

• **We will reap in _____ to what we sow.**

“The one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)

• **We will reap _____ than we sow.**

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Cor 9:10)

Whatever we give out we'll get back—often in a _____ a mount.

“...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38)

When we give it doesn't necessarily mean that God will bless us in this _____.

“Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.” (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

JOYFUL GENEROSITY

#1. Joyful Generosity is _____.

“We want you to know what God's grace has accomplished in the churches in Macedonia. They have been severely tested by the troubles they went through; but their joy was so great they were extremely generous in their giving, even though they themselves are desperately poor.” (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)

In the face of poverty, suffering and persecution, they were able to look beyond _____ and their own needs to the needs of others. They simply gave out

of _____.

Giving like this takes a tremendous amount of _____ and faith.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

It is a mark of maturity when it stops being all about _____; when I'm able to look past my own needs and wants to the needs of _____; when I understand that there really is more joy in giving than in _____.

#2. Joyful Generosity is _____.

“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able and even beyond their ability.” (2 Corinthians 8:3)

Natural giving is to give what we're _____. Super-natural giving is to give _____ one's ability.

It's _____ for us to give—especially when we have a need. It's natural for us to keep, to _____, to _____, to look out for number one, and to save for a rainy day

• **It involves _____.**

It involves stepping out in _____ and giving something that I could use for myself to bless someone else, _____ that God will be faithful to take care of me and my needs. It's letting go and not allowing my money, my things, or my time to have _____ over me.

• **It involves _____.**

It requires me to _____ my right to do what I want with my stuff; and to follow the _____ of the Holy Spirit to give when I'd much rather keep it for myself.

#3. Joyful Generosity is _____.

We also shouldn't give _____, grudgingly, or uncaringly.

“Of their own free will they begged us and they pleaded for the privilege of having a part in helping God's people in Judea.” (2 Corinthians 8:3-4)

enthusiastic = *en theos* =

when we're in God—when we're in _____ with Him through Christ, when He is _____ of our life; when we seek to live in obedience to Him, following the leading of His Holy Spirit; when we understand the basic principle

of Christian _____ that at all that we are and all that we have belongs to God; and when we give beyond our ability—we're being enthusiastic.

#4. Joyful Generosity is a _____.

It's not something we have to be _____ to do, weighing the pros and cons; it's not something we get all psyched up to do; or have to _____ ourselves to get in the zone. It's just something we do because it's a _____ of who we are.

"They gave in a way we did not expect: They first gave themselves to the Lord and then to us. This is what God wants." (2 Corinthians 8:5)

THE PROGRESSION

Christianity 101 commitment - "...they gave themselves to the Lord,"

This is _____. This is the _____ point, the beginning of our relationship with God and our Christian life.

Christianity 201 commitment - "they gave themselves to us." This is church _____, becoming part of the body of Christ and the _____ of God.

Living and giving this way is not only good for our heart, it also _____ God—it's a testimony to His goodness.

"Your offering is a service that glorifies the Lord and shows your eagerness to help." (2 Corinthians 8:19)



The Philippians had _____ given of their earthly possessions to support God's servant. In return, God would amply supply their needs; He would not be in their _____. Having sown bountifully, they would reap bountifully

Ultimately, they would discover that it's impossible to _____ God.

Have you made this discovery in your life?

We don't have a _____ as to whether the law of sowing and reaping is going to apply in our lives. We don't have a choice whether the seeds we plant will bear _____. The only choice we have is what _____ of seeds we're going to plant

The choices we're making and the actions we're taking today will bear _____—either good fruit that will bring _____ and life, or bad fruit that'll bring heartache and _____.

Our words, actions, and decisions are more _____ than we can possibly know—they have _____—they echo through our lives and the lives of everyone we meet; they reverberate down through the generations and into _____.

**Are you giver or a taker?
Are you living a life of joyful generosity?**



"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

Notes: