

Introduction:**I. The Opportunity of Giving** (vv. 10-13)

- A. Revived Thinking of the Philippian Church (v. 10)
- B. Righteous accepting by Paul (vv. 11-13)
 - 1. Paul was a contented receiver (vv. 11-12)
 - 2. Paul was trusting and focused on Christ (v. 13)

II. The Fellowship of Giving (vv. 14-16)

- A. Fellowship in affliction (v. 14)
 - 1. The heart of giving (2 Cor 9:6-7) – Some of our valuable resources: *time, finances, intellect, energy, relationships*
 - a) The heart of giving is a **generous** heart
 - (1) To give generously, we must be intentional.
 - (2) To give generously, we must give cheerfully.
 - (3) Theological basis for giving (*of any of our resources*) cheerfully.
 - (a) Understanding God’s ownership (sovereignty) – Psalm 50:7-15; Isa 45:6-10; Rom 8:28; Eph 1:11; Col 1:16-17
 - (b) Understanding man’s stewardship (responsibility) – Our obligation for worship
 - (i) Worship requires reverent service (Heb 12:28)
 - (ii) Worship requires complete humility (Luke 18:9-14)
 - (iii) Worship must be from the heart and firmly grounded in truth (Isa 29:13; John 4:24).
 - (iv) Worship must be all about God (1 Cor 10:31; 2 Cor 5:9)
 - b) The heart of giving always **puts God first** – “first fruits” (Lev 23:9-14; Deut 26:1-10; 1 Cor 16:2)
 - (1) An O.T. example of firstfruits giving – Jericho
 - (a) An interesting encounter (Josh 5:13-15) – with the preincarnate Christ
 - (i) Jesus is the one depicted as leading Yahweh’s “host” (armies) as “the commander” in Revelation 19:11-16 (cf. Matt 25:31 *angels*; Jude 14 *O.T. saints*; Rev 7:13 *tribulation saints*; 19:8 *the church*).
 - (ii) The Commander accepted Joshua’s worship
 - (a) John before an angel in Revelation 19:10 (cf. 22:8-9)
 - (b) Cornelius before Peter (Acts 10:25-26)
 - (iii) Holy ground where Yahweh speaks (Josh 6:1-2)

- (b) A city “devoted to destruction” (Josh 6:16-17) – “it belongs to Yahweh”
- (2) The most important N.T. example of firstfruits giving – Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Cor 15:20).
- c) The heart of giving gives to the Lord **proportionally** (2 Cor 8:1-5)
 - (1) Paul wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia (the northern Roman province of Greece) in 55-56 A.D. Approximately 6-7 years later in 62 A.D., he wrote this letter to the Philippian church while imprisoned in Rome.
 - (2) The giving nature of the Philippian church
 - (a) Cheerfully and generously (v. 2)
 - (b) Proportionally (v. 3) – not exactly “tithing,” but still proportional
 - (i) O.T. tithing (offering + taxes) = 23% annually + additional taxes (profit sharing “tax,” Lev 19; 1/3-shekel temple tax, Ex 23; property tax in a sense in the form of the Sabbath rest every seventh year, Ex 23:10-11; the Year of Jubilee every 50 years, Lev 25:8-55).
 - (a) Levites Tithe (10%) (Lev 27:30)
 - (b) Festival Tithe (10%) (Deut 12:6-7; 14:22)
 - (c) Poor Tithe (10% every 3 years or ~3% per year) (Deut 14:28)
 - (ii) In the N.T. (especially in 2 Cor 8-9) giving is to be a freewill offering
 - (a) They gave “according to their ability”
 - (b) Their giving was sacrificial (v. 3)
 - (c) *Give of Your Best to the Master* by Howard B. Grose
 - d) The heart of giving gives to the Lord as an **investment** (Matt 6:19-20; 2 Cor 9:6)
- B. Giving as a priority (vv. 15-16) – demonstrating the hearts of the Philippian church
 - 1. The only ones (v. 15)
 - 2. Repeated gifts (v. 16)
 - a) A model church
 - b) Responsible leadership
- III. **The Fruit of Giving** (vv. 17-19) – An eternal investment (*in two weeks*)

Conclusion: