

LIFE Group Leader Handout

November 8, 2020

Message Title: Venture Capital

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Scripture--Philippians 4:14-23

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. 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 and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. 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. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Main Idea--The Work of Reaching the World with the Gospel is a Partnership

God's viewpoint: Partnership

"...partnership with me..." (v. 15)

What does this partnership look like?

- Mutual
...partnership with me in giving and receiving... (v. 15)
- Relational
Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. (v. 16)
- Worshipful
...the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. (v. 18)
- Sacrificial
...a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. (v. 18)

Why does God ask me to give? Why does God not just supply all the needs of world missions directly? Pool or Stream?

The true context of v. 19--

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

- Exceptional
...no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. (v. 15)

An opportunity to venture our capital--increase present giving by 10% and give to World Missions Partners

Application--

- How would you describe your interest in and support for world missions at this point in time? (uninvolved, casually involved, periodically involved, continuously involved)
- To what extent would you say the concept of God's supply as a stream rather than a pool informs how you use the funds he entrusts to your care?
- Did this "partnership" message change your prayer focus and giving patterns?