

Paul's Attitude Toward His Support

by John Isaac Edwards

Paul tells us that when he departed from Macedonia no church communicated with him concerning giving and receiving but the church at Philippi only (Phil. 4:15). He went on to remind the brethren, “For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity” (Phil. 4:16). Certainly the Bible teaches that those who preach the gospel should live of the gospel (1 Cor. 9:14) and “... Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn” (1 Cor. 9:9). Yet, Paul had a wonderful attitude toward his support and toward those who supported him in the preaching of the gospel of Christ.

1) He Thanked God (Phil. 1:3). Paul thanked God upon every remembrance of the Philippian brethren, “Always in every prayer...” (Phil. 1:4). Upon occasion Paul would write, “But thanks be to God...” (1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor.

8:16). Every time he called them to his remembrance his heart overflowed with thanksgiving to God!

2) He Made Request for the Brethren with Joy (Phil. 1:4). Paul's remembrance of the brethren at Philippi took the direction of joyful supplication to God to bless them (Phil. 1:4). Paul often prayed for his brethren with deep grief and tears (2 Cor. 2:4), but for these brethren he made supplication with joy and not with grief.

3) He Thought of Their Support As Fellowship in the Gospel (Phil. 1:5). Fellowship means to share with, to participate in the same things. The NASV uses the words “participation in the gospel.” Their fellowship or sharing was in the furtherance of the gospel. Their fellowship had been continuous, from the first act of love, when Lydia constrained Paul and his company to come into her

house and abide there (Acts 16:15), to the sending of relief to his necessities in Rome.

4) He Looked upon Their Support As a Work of God (Phil. 1:6). Paul gave God the credit for having begun the work. God had begun a good work in them! Paul taught the brethren, “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:12-13).

5) He Considered Such a Good Work (Phil. 1:6). Paul expressed confidence that they would continue in this very thing. He was confident that they would perform this good work unto the day of Jesus Christ.

6) He Thought of the Brethren As Partakers

with Him (Phil. 1:7). The church at Philippi followed Paul through his labors and sufferings with their prayers and their contributions for his help. They remembered Paul, prayed for him, sent to his help time and again, sent messengers to know his condition, ministered to his wants (Phil. 2:25), and they themselves were bearing persecution for Christ's sake. In doing and suffering these things, they were partakers of his grace.

7) He Desired Fruit That Would Abound unto the Brethren's Account (Phil. 4:17). He desired them to do these things, not that his wants might be supplied, but for their own good. Those who do not preach can have fruit in new converts made, or in the word of God multiplied by sustaining and aiding those who are preaching, with their money and their prayers. David Liscomb wrote, "My

deliberate conviction from the study of God's instructions on this subject is that God will call it robbery of him for his professed servants to neglect those who have worn out their lives in the service of God and man, now old, sick, and in dire need."

8) He Looked upon Their Support As an Odour of a Sweet Smell, a Sacrifice Acceptable, Wellpleasing to God (Phil. 4:18). All sacrifice made in Christ's name to help those who preach the gospel goes up to God as an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable and wellpleasing to God. Whatever is done for the servant is done for the Master, and whatever is done for Christ brings abundant recompense.

9) He Knew That God Would Supply All the Brethren's Needs by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). Christ does supply all our needs!

He was sent to be the propitiation for our sins. John wrote, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 Jn. 4:10). Eternal life is available in Christ Jesus. 1 John 5:11 records, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

May we continue to support those who preach the gospel of Christ and may those who preach the gospel of Christ have these attitudes!

GOSPEL MEETING

September 7-12

with

**Various
Gospel Preachers**

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:
4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com