

YOUR CARE OF ME HATH FLORISHED PHILIPPIANS 4:1-23

Text: Philippians 4:10

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

Introduction:

We find in Ephesians 4 a principle of stewardship.

Notice the steps of this principle in Ephesians 4:

1. Worthy Walk (vs. 1)
2. Humble Walk (vs 2)
3. Unified Walk (vss 3-6)
4. Gifted Walk (vss 7-11)

You may be thinking I'm not one of those mentioned in verse 11.

However in verse 16 everyone is included.

Ephes. 4:16

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

I want to introduce to you this plan, what we are calling the EPH 4:16 plan.

What is stewardship. Stewardship is defined according to Webster as: A person put in charge of the affairs or property of another.

That is what we are as Christians. We are stewards of the things of God.

Those things include our Time, our Talents, and our Treasures. The truth is where ever or whatever one treasures will determine what one will do with their Time and Talents.

Last week we considered who owns what. In our text today we will see what it truly means to be generous.

1. PAUL'S ADVICE (4:1-9)

A. Paul dealt with some issues in this church.

Stand fast in the Lord (vs 1)

- Be unified in heart, mind and effort (vs 2)
- Take care of those who had helped Paul (vs 3)
- Rejoice in the Lord (vs 4)
- Don't worry and fret. (vs 6-7)
- Think on the right things. (vs 8)
- Stay faithful (vs 9)

2. PHILIPPIANS APATHY (4:10-13)

A. Paul had some real needs. (vs 14)

B. The church missed some great opportunities to be a help and blessing. (vs 10)

What a sad thing it is to miss out on opportunity.

3. PHILIPPIANS AWAKING (4:15-16)

- A. Finally the church realized its responsibility.
- B. Responded to their responsibility.

4. PRINCIPLES OF TRUE GENEROSITY.

- A. Opportunities don't last forever.
- B. We should never fret, but seek the Lord in time of need. (vs 6-7)
- C. God work is taken care of by His people. (vs 2)
- D. When we know there is a need we have a responsibility to respond.
- E. We are to all sacrificially give. (vs 18)

Illustration: Tithing is equal sacrifice.

- F. God is pleased when we sacrificially give. (vs 18)
- G. As we give God will meet our needs. (vs 19)
- H. Our generosity will be rewarded in Heaven.

Matthew 10:42

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Close:

True generosity in our stewardship is intended for God's eternal glory.