

According to His Riches

Philippians 4:19-23

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Paul thanks them for the gift they have supplied at this crucial time in his life. He knows that this gift was a sacrifice on their part. But he wants to assure them that his God will not forget this spiritual sacrifice and will make up the difference out of His abundant supply.

You see God never has a downturn. He knows nothing about shortages. His supply comes from His riches.

But what does that mean? Does this mean that God wants us all to be wealthy? Does this mean that God wants us to all be rich?

I. My God

- A. It is not the pagan gods that will supply.
- B. Actually the pagan gods are quite exacting and harsh.
 - 1. Look around the world and mark out the most prosperous nations.
 - 2. What you will find is that you have marked the nations that have a Protestant Christian heritage.
 - 3. Now I did not say that these are Christian nations.
 - 4. But they are nations that were so Christian at a previous date as to drive out paganism.
- C. In his new book "Why Jesus" Ravi Zacharias, who was born and raised in India, tells us that it is only in the West that Eastern Mysticism is popular.
 - 1. All you need to do is take one trip to India to see that the religion of Gandhi and the rest has left a nation in poverty with the most helpless to fend for themselves.
 - 2. The poor of America would be considered rich by Indian standards.
- D. So it is the God of the Bible that Paul is referring to here.

II. Shall supply all your need

- A. This is where we get into problems.
 - 1. We want to define our needs.
 - 2. I need a new house, a new car.

3. I need that new cyber gadget.
- B. But most of us think of our basic needs when we think about this.
1. Food, shelter, clothing, etc.
 2. But do you ever think about discipline.
 3. I remember getting sent to bed without supper a couple of times because my parents thought I needed to be hungry.
 4. Have you ever been forced to learn humility even though you did not think that you needed it.
- C. Have you ever said, “What that child needs is a good beating”?
1. Now I know you never said that about your kids but not other people's kids, that's a different story.
 2. Now my dad did more than say it.
 3. My dad did not hold to a lot of the Bible but he sure got that part about sparing the rod and spoiling the child.
 4. But you see, the worst thing that God can do for us is to do nothing when we need correcting.
 5. Heb 12: 5-8; "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.
 6. We all need to begin praying that God would discipline His children that are out of fellowship with Him.
- D. How could Paul, a man who had suffered loss on such a large scale, tell this people that his God would supply all their needs.
1. On the surface, we might say, “Well Paul if your God has been supplying your needs, I do not need a supply like that.”
 2. Paul's detractors at Corinth had pointed to Paul's troubles in life as a proof that God was not favoring Paul but trying to shut him down.
 3. That is why in 2 Corinthians Paul is forced to defend himself so vehemently.
 4. Just like today, most people in Paul's day did not see the “trial of your faith as something more precious than gold.”

- a. 1 Pet 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

III. According to His riches.

A. Now you are talking preacher.

1. Riches, where are they at.
2. Every person who has ever lived has fantasied about being rich, filthy rich.
3. But is that the riches Paul is referring too.

B. Listen to the riches the Bible lists.

1. Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
 - a. Ephesians 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
 - b. Our greatest lack is righteousness.
 - (1) Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:
 - (2) Our sin needs to be dealt with. And God has dealt with it abundantly.
2. Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
 - a. Oh how people need the wisdom that comes from God alone.
 - b. Our whole nation is awash in ignorance of the wisdom of God.
 - c. Godly men and women gave us this country and ungodly men and woman are “improving” or really destroying it.
 - d. 1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
 - e. 1 Corinthians 3:19-21 (NKJV) 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; 20 and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 21 Therefore let no one boast in

men. For all things are yours:

3. Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
 - a. If God was not rich in forbearance and longsuffering we would all be six feet under.
 - b. But God works in our lives and patiently waits as the farmer does for the grain to sprout and grow.
4. Romans 9:23 and that He might **make known** the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,
 - a. Oh that God would give us a glimpse of His glory.
 - b. Remember how Moses wanted to see the glory of God, but God told him that he could not bear it, but God would allow Moses to see the after-glow of His glory.
 - c. Remember how Moses face glowed when he came down from the mountain, and he had to put a covering over his face so that he did not frighten the people.
5. Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man**,
 - a. Where are we weak?
 - b. Is it not in our soul, our spirit.
 - c. We struggle with depression, and disappointment.
 - d. Thank goodness under the new medical plan your visits to the shrink will be covered.
 - e. But Christians have a richer supply for what cures the troubles of the soul than even the federal government.
 - f. Come to Jesus and His word, depend upon the Holy Spirit, and out of His riches He will strengthen you through His Spirit in the inner man.
 - g. The APA cannot supply that.
6. Ephesians 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
 - a. It is not our what or who we are in ourselves that will matter.

- b. But it is what He is in us, that is our inheritance.
 - c. Paul said we are joint heirs with Christ, what a grand and glorious fact.
7. Colossians 2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,
- a. The greatest thing God can give us is the ability to know and understand Himself.
 - b. John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

There are many other things I would like to tell you about this verse, but our time has come to an end. And so our series on Philippians. I hope that it has been as much a blessing for you as it has been for me.