

“God’s Abundant Provision”
Philippians 4:19
(Preached at Trinity, September 10, 2017)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As I’ve pointed out, in **Chapter 4** Paul is drawing his letter to a close, but as he does so he divides it into several parts.
 - A. **Verses 4-9** seem to be the logical close to the letter as he passes along duties to put into practice, things he had taught, all in the imperative mood.
 - B. Then suddenly in **Verse 10** Paul inserts his great gratitude to them for their generosity. This continues through **Verse 19**. It’s almost as if he is saying in **Verse 10** – “But before I close . . . “
 - C. Then, finally, he brings the letter to a close in **Verses 20-23** with his customary greetings and benediction.
2. This morning I want to direct your attention to **Verse 19**. Paul has been expressing his great gratitude for the generosity of the Philippian church. They had sent an abundant gift to Paul through Epaphroditus.
Philippians 4:18 NAU - "But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God."
3. The Church of Philippi gave often and they gave abundantly, although at times it was through great sacrifice. Their church went through seasons of want. In Paul’s letter to the Corinthian church he described their condition as that of deep poverty.
2 Corinthians 8:2-3 NAU - "that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. ³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord"
4. It is in this context that Paul penned **Verse 19**
Philippians 4:19 NAU - "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
5. This morning I’d like us to consider this verse for a few minutes. There are few promises in the Bible that provide as much comfort as this verse. What a wonderful rest it brings upon the weary soul.

- I. Paul speaks of God in terms of relationship – “My God”
- A. Paul is describing his greatest treasure – his relationship with God
1. This was Paul’s personal experience. His God had supplied all his need and so Paul was comforting the Philippian church with these words. “My God is your God. . .”
 2. This is the testimony of all of the people of God.
God promised Israel:
Leviticus 26:12 NAU - "I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people."
 3. God is our God because we are in a covenant relationship with Him
 - a. God made a covenant with His Son to give Him a people and that Christ would redeem them
 - b. God enters into covenant with us by faith in His Son
Christ is the Mediator of the covenant
 4. Jesus is the surety of the covenant – He guaranteed fulfillment through His shed blood. He guarantees the promises. What are the promises?
 - a. He promises us a restoration of relationship – Sin caused an infinite separation between us and God. Through Christ we have reconciliation. “I will be your God and you will be My people.”
Jeremiah 31:33 NAU - "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."
 - b. Through Christ we have a true knowledge of God. He reveals Himself to us. We know Him in an intimate way.
Jeremiah 31:33 NAU - "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD"
 - c. He assures us of His love and forgiveness. He admits us to communion with Himself
Jeremiah 31:34 NAU - "For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
- B. To call God our God is to cast ourselves fully upon Him
1. We declare absolute allegiance to Him. We can see this with Ruth
Ruth 1:16 NAU - "But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God."
 2. To know God is to trust Him. We find comfort in Him. The God who rules the whole earth is our God.
2 Samuel 22:2-3 NAU - "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; ³ My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My savior, You save me from violence."

3. For Paul, knowing Christ was the greatest blessing, the highest treasure. Not just an intellectual knowledge but an experimental knowledge.
Philippians 3:8 NAU - "I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,"
- C. The grace of God's provision is His promise to His people
Isaiah 54:17 NAU - "No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD."
1. The lost man doesn't know the richness of God's goodness to His own children
He knows nothing of what it means to be reconciled
He knows nothing of the indwelling Spirit nor of the blessings of adoption
He knows nothing of a relationship with the living Christ.
He knows nothing of the hope of the promise of eternal life
 2. The glory of the Gospel is the sweetness of God's pleasure. We have the assurance of God's loving care.
1 Peter 5:7 NAU - "casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."
 3. Paul is sharing the greatest of all blessings – God is our God
John Eadie – “What a glorious promise for the apostle to make on god's behalf to them—a perfect supply for every want of body or soul. For time or eternity, for earth or heaven. *It was not* rash in Paul to make such a promise, nor did it exceed his commission. He did not speak without warrant. He knew the character of His God, and did not take his name in vain, for his varied and prolonged experience had fully informed him, and he was assured that the state of heart in the Philippian church must attract towards it the blessing.”¹
- II. Paul describes God as being willing and able to supply
- A. Paul assumes the reality of needs – “all your needs”
 1. This world is full of need - Being a Christian does not shield us from adversity
 2. Christians know sickness and disease; they know financial difficulty; they know natural disasters—fires, floods, earthquakes, tornados and hurricanes. Christians know suffering of persecution.
 3. Christians can know loneliness, the sorrows of death, the wound of rejection or betrayal.
 4. Worst of all, Christians know the relentless struggle against sin and the unceasing assaults of Satan.

¹ Eadie, John, *A Commentary on the Greek Text of Paul's Letter to the Philippians*, (Birmingham: Solid Ground Christian Books, reprint 2005), Page 285.

- B. Paul describes God as both willing and able to supply our needs
“My God will supply all your needs”
1. What comfort. God is able to supply every need. All sorts of needs, large and small, material and spiritual. God is able to meet our needs during our times of deepest grief and sorrow.
Psalm 42:11 KJV - "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God."
 2. The context puts our focus upon material needs
 - a. The Philippians had provided for Paul in abundance
 - b. The resources of the Philippian Christians were limited, and yet they gave sacrificially.
 - c. As they gave sacrificially, Paul was assuring them that God is able to continue to provide for their needs and more.
2 Corinthians 9:7-8 NAU - "Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;"
 3. Paul often spoke using accounting terms
 - a. In his Epistle to the Romans he wrote of those who were adding to their account the wrath of God—like a great storehouse that they were filling to overflowing.
Romans 2:5 NAU - "But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,"
 - b. Paul is telling these generous Philippians that their liberality is of great profit to them. As they emptied their account, God was filling it.
Philippians 4:17 NAU - "but I seek for the profit which increases to your account."
- C. Paul describes God as possessing all riches – “according to His riches in glory”
1. As Creator, God own’s all things. Nothing stands outside His ownership and dominion.
Psalm 50:10 NAU - "For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills."
Psalm 24:1 NAU - "The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, "
 2. Since God’s wealth is boundless it is impossible to exhaust it. He is able to supply all needs according to His boundless glory and His sovereign delight.
 3. All of the wealth of the earth is distributed according to God’s pleasure
1 Samuel 2:7-8 NAU - "The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. ⁸ "He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor; For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He set the world on them."
 4. Paul is saying that it is a small thing for the God who has all riches in glory to provide our needs.

III. Paul recognizes that every good gift comes through Jesus Christ – “in Christ Jesus”

A. Jesus is the Fount of every blessing

1. As we consider the needs of man, however, we must not dismiss our greatest need. We are alienated from our Creator. We were created to reflect His glory, to find purpose in Him. Only in Christ can we be reconciled.
2. For the believer Christ is all in all
Ephesians 1:3-6 NAU - "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."
3. He is the sum of our redemption, the surety of every promise. He is the hope of eternity. The fullness of the Gospel rests upon Christ—the Gospel IS Christ.
Romans 3:24-25 NAU - "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith."
2 Timothy 1:9 NAU - "who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,"
Ephesians 2:10 NAU - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."
4. Jesus is our all in all
 Every hope of glory rests in our glorious Saviour - Jesus Christ
 Every spiritual enjoyment is found in Jesus alone
 Every victory in our spiritual war rests in our mighty King, Jesus alone

B. Jesus transcends every earthly treasure

1. He is the source of all contentment
Philippians 4:12-13 NAU - "I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."
2. He is the source of all comfort as we face every trial
2 Corinthians 1:5 NAU - "For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ."

Conclusion:

1. Do we not all know by experience the rich provision of God?
But we cannot dismiss that God works through the use of means. We cannot quit our jobs and declare, “God will provide my needs.”
2. Paul says “My God shall supply” as he sat under house arrest in Rome. God provided his needs through the Philippian church and Paul was certain that God would provide their needs as they continued to labor for God’s glory.
3. Paul doesn’t say God will provide every wish. We need to guard our hearts against discontent when our worldly lusts are not fulfilled. But God does provide our needs.
Matthew 6:31-33 NAU - "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' ³² "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."