

Security **Philippians 4:15-19**

Read The LARGE PRINT!

A wise man doesn't take every guarantee at face value –

He reads the *fine print!*

A wise man doesn't take all of God's promises at face value –

He reads the *LARGE PRINT!*

The Passage & The Promise:

Philippians 4:15-19

- Remember the “*Over-the-Shoulder Principle.*”

✓ *A real letter to real people.*

- Notice that the Philippians had. . .

✓ *generously supported Paul's ministry*

✓ *from the beginning*

✓ *over the long haul*

- And BECAUSE OF THAT. . .

✓ God would *meet all of their needs.*

The Promise:

- Needs not *wants.*
- In “*accordance with*” – not just “*out of*” God's riches!

The LARGE PRINT:

- If we want Philippian-like *security* –
we need Philippian-like *generosity!*

- ❶ Off the *top.*

Philippians 4:15/ Proverbs 3:9-10/ Malachi 3:8-11/ Haggai 1:2-12 & 2:15-19

- ❷ Over the *long haul.*

Philippians 4:16/ 2 Corinthians 11:9/ 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 & 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

- ❸ *Sacrificially.*

2 Corinthians 8:1-5/ 2 Samuel 24:18-25

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 12, 2006

This week is the final meeting of the Winter Quarter. (Note: This is not the final meeting for the College groups and Introductory Growth Groups.) Your Growth Group homework has been shortened to allow you ample time to celebrate communion together and reflect on how God has worked during this session. The Spring Growth Group Quarter begins the week of April 2 and goes through June 3.

MY STORY

1. At times, it can be tricky to know the difference between a need and want. Based upon your life observations, what are two or three typical “wants” that people confuse for “needs”?

How would you define the difference between a “want” and a “need”?

2. Which of the three traits of generosity that characterized the Philippians was most important for you to hear and why?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. The following verses all speak about generosity. After reading each one, jot down the motivation for generosity found in each passage.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [NIV]

Hebrews 13:16

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. [NIV]

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. [18] Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. [19] In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. [NIV]

2. The ultimate motivation for generosity is simply a response to the generosity Jesus has poured out on us. Understanding and being genuinely thankful for what Jesus has done for us is often a first step in developing a generous mindset. What blessings from Christ are found in the following verses?

1 Timothy 1:16-17

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. [17] Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. [NIV]

1 Timothy 2:3-6

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, [4] who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. [5] For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, [6] who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time. [NIV]

1 Peter 1:3-5

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, [5] who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on your Growth Group experience the past quarter, what is one specific highlight, encouragement, challenge or insight you have been given as a result of the time spent with your group?

God's ultimate desire for our life is that we know how much He loves us AND that we experience the benefit of living our lives for and with Him. Communion is one way we remind ourselves of all He's done and all He's calling us to become. This week your Growth Group will conclude by taking communion together. To prepare for this, take a moment to read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 reflecting on the significance of Christ's sacrificial love in your own life.

Based on what you've studied above what are one or two things for which you are particularly thankful God has done for you?