



Biblical Foundations

The Blessing of Giving

You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

— **Philippians 4:15-17 (NASB95)**

When we think about giving to others or supporting God’s work, we often think about the benefits to the recipient. In God’s economy, it is His intention that not only the recipient but also the giver enjoy the benefits of the gift.

Paul received financial assistance from friends at the church in Philippi, and Paul’s letter to the Philippians was written in part to thank them for their gift. Their assistance held practical value for Paul. Yet Paul chose to focus on the value of the gift to those who gave it. Paul is not seeking “the gift itself.” Rather, he is seeking “the profit which increases to your account.” Paul uses accounting imagery. He likens God’s acknowledgement to that of a bookkeeper making a credit entry in an accounting ledger. When someone gives to God’s work, God records that gift and credits it to the account of the giver. What that means is God recognizes our giving. He remembers it; He rewards us.

How is our giving rewarded? We’ll explore that topic further in a future article. For now, let’s focus on a familiar statement from Jesus, who said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Giving is a privilege that carries its own reward of blessing and joy. And what greater joy can we realize than to know that our giving touches the heart of God!

