

Philippians 4:10-23

Joyful thanks for gifts of love

(The People's Bible, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, pages 95-101)

Look

- Verse 10 *"You had no opportunity to show it."* Perhaps on account of Paul's tenuous circumstances in Rome or their lack of a candidate to send to Paul or poverty in Philippi, the Philippians were not initially able to aid Paul.
- Verse 20 *"Be glory"*—This is an appropriate way to end any discussion about the Christian faith. The glory for everything that has been accomplished belongs to God.
- Verse 22 *"Those who belong to Caesar's household"*—Evidently some members of Caesar's household had come to faith. By exchanging greetings, Paul strengthened Christian fellowship.

Discuss

1. What was Paul's "secret of being content" (verse 12)?
2. On Paul's second missionary journey, he first preached the gospel in Philippi. Then he went to Thessalonica, where he experienced bitter persecution. He then went to Berea, and hostile Jews from Thessalonica pursued him there. Finally, he left for Rome. How had the Philippians helped Paul during this difficult time?
3. Why did Paul value these gifts from the Philippians? (verses 17,18)
4. How would God reward the Philippians' generosity?

Apply

5. Paul said, "I have learned to be content" (verse 11). What comfort do we find in this?
6. What do you think is more dangerous to our faith, having too much or too little? Why?

Paul concluded his letter to the Philippians by thanking them for their gifts and, in the process, explaining his contentment in any situation and his joy over the fruits of their faith.