

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE**

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June 4, 2017

“SUPPORTING THE WORK OF GOD”

Philippians 4:14-20

Whenever I speak on the subject of giving, which I rarely do, I'm aware that I'm dealing with a sensitive area where people are easily offended. *“The church is always after my money,”* is the common complaint of people outside the church. But they never say that about sporting events.

The Bible speaks very plainly about money because our hearts and our wallets are tightly bound up together, and God is after our hearts. Look at what Jesus said in *Matt. 6:21*; *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

I also want you to know that I do not know how much or how little anyone in this church gives. Also, you need to know that this year our giving is actually over our budget and we are greatly blessed. Our text is a *“thank-you note”* Paul wrote to the Philippians.

What truths and lessons do we learn from this passage on Supporting The Work Of God?

I. OUR GIVING BLESSES OTHERS VS.14-18

V-14 - The word **communicate** carries the idea of *fellowship*. By supporting Paul, they were fellowshiping with him in his affliction or trouble. There is nothing like a practical expression of support to encourage someone in his work.

Now Paul tells the Corinthians that *'God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Cor. 9:7)*. And here he writes to the Philippians, *'It was good of you to share my troubles' (4:14)*. The apostle was greatly blessed by the gifts which were sent by the Philippians and by the love which lay behind each of them.

II. OUR GIVING ENRICHES US V-19

The Lord himself said, *'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35)*. It is a sign of maturity when we have that attitude. Notice several thoughts connected to this verse.

First, it was Personal—My God

Second, it was Positive—shall supply

Third, it was Pointed—all your needs

Fourth, it was Plentiful—according to his riches in glory

Fifth, it was Powerful—by Christ Jesus

Paul said you gave out of your *poverty*, but God will supply your needs out of His *riches in glory!* *“God has not promised to supply all our “greeds”, but all of our “NEEDS”.*

III. OUR GIVING PLEASES GOD V-18

The greatest motivation for all of us to give to others, and so help them in their work of spreading the gospel, is the fact that it pleases God *(4:18)*.

Our love to God and to others is just like a fragrant offering to the Lord. Christian giving is always a response. The motivation for our giving is that we have received. This doesn't mean we try to pay God back, for that is an impossibility. It does mean that our giving begins in gratitude.