

**“Growing in Generosity”
The Best of Times...The Worst of Times Part 4**

Philippians 4:14-19
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Quality 1: Generous believers focus on the needs of those around them. (Philippians 4:14-16)

Quality 2: Generous believers understand their gifts are offerings to the Lord and result in eternal rewards. (Philippians 4:17-18)

“The language used to describe their gift, as a *fragrant offering*, is taken from the Old Testament (Gn. 8:21; cf. Ex. 29:18; Lv. 1:9,13; Ezk. 20:41), and is a reminder to us that all sincere Christian service which entails sacrificial and self-denying cost...is an act of worship in which God takes pleasure.”

Ralph P. Martin, *Philippians*, William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1987, p. 184.

Quality 3: Generous believers trust God to meet their needs. (Philippians 4:19)

“[The apostle is saying,] ‘God is the rewarder of such self-sacrificing service. He who is *my God* will not disappoint you in the full supply of whatever need you have.’ In fact, the source and extent of this divine supply are given in some profound words: *according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus*...Every conceivable human need is more than adequately supplied from such a source.”

Ralph P. Martin, *Philippians*, William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1987, p. 185.

“The richness of God’s mercy and provision is made known *in Christ Jesus*. In him, God’s full wealth of revelation and redemption (Col. 1:27; 2:3) is contained, so that we are ‘rich’ in him (2 Cor. 8:9), *i.e.* in union with him by faith, and thereby linked to the source and supply of all true wealth.”

Ralph P. Martin, *Philippians*, William B Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1987, p. 185.