

# Partnership in the Gospel

Bible Study - Philippians 4:10-20



1. Read the following statements about church and money. Indicate whether you think each view is common or rare. If you think a view is common suggest a reason why you think it is:

- a. The local church gets money from the denominational headquarters \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The church is only out to get my money \_\_\_\_\_
- c. If I've got something left over at the end of the week, I put it in the plate \_\_\_\_\_
- d. The best way for the church to raise money is to run a fete \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Giving to the church is my number one financial priority \_\_\_\_\_
- f. The church shouldn't talk too much about money. It could turn people off \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Our giving to the church is a reflection of our commitment to Christ \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Some church members are exempt from regular and generous giving because of their personal circumstances \_\_\_\_\_

## Read Philippians 4:10-20

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- 2. Why is Paul rejoicing?
- 3. What did the Philippians do to show their concern for Paul?
- 4. What does Paul mean by the phrase 'you shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving'?
- 5. In Chapter 1, Paul describes the Philippians as 'partners' with him in the gospel. What does this suggest about the Philippians' commitment to Paul and the gospel?
- 6. Why is the giving of money an important sign of partnership in the Lord's work?
- 7. In vs 18, Paul describes the gift of the Philippians as a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. What does he mean (choose one of the following)?
  - The Philippians burnt their money
  - God is especially pleased when His people give their money to gospel ministry
  - The Philippians gift was sent to the temple where it was used to pay for the sacrifice of bulls and goats, which pleased God

## Read the following verses from Ephesians

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**“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”**

Ephes. 5:1-2 (ESV)

8. Paul describes both the death of Jesus and the giving of money to the Lord’s work as ‘fragrant offerings and sacrifices to God’. Can you think of a reason why Paul uses the same language to describe the two events?

## Think it through

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9. Who is responsible for the financial affairs of Maitland Evangelical Church

- The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches
- The Maitland community as a whole
- The senior pastor
- Each and every member of MEC

10. Do you consider yourself a partner in the gospel at MEC? Why or why not?

11. What sort of things hinder people from giving generously and regularly to our local church? Try to think of as many things as possible.

12. Paul says he has learnt the secret of being content in any and every situation. How does discontentment hinder generous and regular giving to gospel ministry?

13. What are the advantages and disadvantages of direct debit giving?

14. Read back through the statements at the beginning of the study and discuss possible responses based on what you’ve learned in this study.

15. What action are you going to take as a result of this study? Be as specific as possible.