

## Reflection Questions: Philippians 4:14-23

For the message, "Gifts, Grace, & Glory" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 30, 2023

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*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](https://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Philippians 4.14-23

**14** Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. **15** And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. **16** Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

**17** Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. **18** I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. **19** And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **20** To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**21** Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. **22** All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

**23** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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### **Let's get started...**

- What initially grabs your attention from reading through this text?

### **QUESTIONS**

1. The Apostle Paul is grateful for the gift the Philippians have sent to them as they partnered with him in the spread of the Gospel of Jesus. He describes it as "a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God." This description is riffing off descriptions of OT sacrifices. Do you tend to think of your giving to the church, to missionaries and others who are spreading the hope of the Gospel as worship? Why or why not?
  - How do you think being more intentional about making your financial gifts an offering to God as a part of your worship result in greater joy and anticipation for you?
2. In verse 19, Paul makes a promise, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." What stirs within you as you think of this promise?
  - Can you look back on your life and see examples of God making good on this promise?

3. In those final lines of greeting, Paul mentions, “All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s household.” Paul saved this jewel for the end. How do you think this was meant to both surprise and encourage the Philippian Christians (and us!) to believe God is at work in all things—the good, the bad, and the ugly—advancing his purposes in bringing many people into salvation in Jesus?
4. Just think, if the Philippians had not sent this gift to Paul, we would never have had this amazing letter to the Philippians. As you look back over this book, what are some especially encouraging passages or verses for you? What makes them meaningful for you?

### CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

### PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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