**“The Difference Generosity Can Make”**

Going deeper in Philippians 4:10-18

**INTRODUCTION** – Paul has just finished talking in the verses prior to this about how our lives together in Jesus are characterized by joy, peace, prayer, thanksgiving, and purity.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 10 I am overflowing with joy as you have, again, renewed your care and concern for me. Really, I knew you were always thinking about me, but you just didn’t have the opportunity. 11 Not that I am saying this because of some need I have. 12 Rather please know that I have learned to be content regardless of my circumstances. I know what contentment is like when I have little and what it is like when I am in prosperity. 13 I am fully able to do all things through Christ who strengthens me. 14 Nevertheless I don’t mean that your help didn’t mean a lot to me – it did. You have done so much good by sharing in my troubles. 15 You should also know that in the beginning of the spread of the gospel when I departed to Macedonia not one church family shared with me in this matter of giving and receiving. You were the only one. 16 Even while I was in Thessalonica you sent aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am just giving you credit for what you have done. 18 I have received all that I need and I am fully supplied having received from Epaphroditus all that you sent me. It is a fragrant offering, a full and acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What effect has the generosity of the Philippian Church had on the Apostle Paul?

2. What is Paul’s secret to contentment?

3. How has God worked in your times of “having little?” How has God worked in your times of “prosperity?”

4. What does this say about God’s work regardless of circumstances?

5. According to verse 18 who are we pleasing with our generosity?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask the Lord Jesus to pour his joy into you this day.

\*Give thanks and pray for God’s blessings for those whose generosity has made a difference in your journey of faith.

\*Ask the Lord to show you ways you can live generously and pour into the lives of others today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Apostle Paul is thanking the church in Philippi for their generosity and telling them how it has made a difference. How are you being called to live generously this week?