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Final Words of Encouragement; Phil 4:19-23
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Introduction – the letters of Paul to the churches that we have in our NT are much like any other letter we might read. You find some opening remarks, the body of the letter containing the main points, and finally the closing remarks. It is a letter, meant to be read by a specific local church.

However, the letters of the NT are also inspired Scripture, where the Spirit of God guided the mind of the human author to write truth, not just for one local church, but for every church, in every place, for all time. 2 Peter 1:20-21, 3:15-16.

So yes, the NT letters are letters, but they are more than mere letters; they are divine Scripture. That means unlike other letters where the opening and closing remarks are really sort of fillers, the opening and closing remarks in the NT epistles are Scripture. Therefore, they are to be given careful attention just like the rest of Scripture. Paul wasn't just filling space and using words just for the sake of bringing the letter to an end. The believers at Philippi needed these words, and so do we.

- I. A Powerful Promise (v19)
 - a. And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
 - b. When Paul says, “and my God”, he is telling us that as we believers are pouring into our lives all that he has previously instructed us, God will be supplying our needs. While you are doing this, God will be doing this. As we are pursuing Christ (ch1), pursuing unity through humility (ch2), directing our lives to eternity through the power of gospel (ch3), and replacing our anxiety with the peace and joy of God, learning contentment in Christ, and becoming generous givers (ch4) – as we are giving our lives to God and to please, God will be sustaining and keeping us by supplying every need that comes our way so that we keep our eye on the goal.
 - i. Specifically to the immediate context (vv14-18), as we are faithful to give of our resources to gospel ministry, God will be

faithful to give of His resources to us! That my friends is a powerful promise!

- c. He says, “and my God will supply every need of yours.” Every. Need. Of yours. Paul has been thanking the church at Philippi for their financial gift to meet his needs. However, when he speaks of what God gives in return, he speaks of more than monetary needs. You see, the promise here enables us to live by faith and be generous with what God has given us.
 - i. If we will meet genuine needs and gospel needs as worship to the Lord, we can rest assured that God will be meeting our needs. That frees us to be very generous and sacrificial and constantly storing up treasure in heaven!
 - ii. He says every need. You see sometimes our need is financial, but sometimes our need is spiritual. Sometimes we need grace. Sometimes we need mercy. Sometimes we need the love of God. Sometimes we need encouragement. Sometimes we need faith. Sometimes we need strength. The promise here means God knows what we need and when we need it, and He is willing and able and promises to supply!
 - iii. Every need of ours. Not our wants. We want a lot of things that God knows we don’t necessarily need. If God were to supply all our wants, we would lose focus on living for His glory. But God is a faithful and good and wise Father – He knows what we need and often is different or even the opposite of what we want. But as long as we know God will supply our every need as we are living for Him, then we can be free to live for Him with everything we’ve got! And we’ve got a lot! The Spirit! The Word. Brothers and sisters in Christ. Heaven. Salvation. Jesus! A heavenly Father!
- d. And my God will supply every need of yours “according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” In Christ Jesus means the life, death, and resurrection of Christ has not only reconciled us to God but being reconciled has opened up the portals of glory that grace may be abundantly available and richly supplied.
 - i. His riches in glory – that’s the true riches. Can you imagine God’s riches in glory, purchased for us by Christ? There is nothing that doesn’t belong to God – He created it all; He owns

it all, both on earth and in the heavens! There is not a need we can possibly have that God does not have an abundant resource of supply, just for that specific need!

ii. III. Billionaire. Billionaire, businessman and the chairman and chief executive of LVMH (LVMUY), Bernard Arnault holds the crown as the richest person in the world. According to Forbes, Arnault has a fortune of \$234.5 billion.

1. Imagine what he could do with his fortune.

2. I can't get my little mind around 234.5 billion. Now listen, all his wealth and even he belongs to God. If I can't imagine his wealth, how can we even imagine God's riches in glory in Christ Jesus!

e. God owns the world. God owns the universe. God owns the heavens. And He promises to supply every need of ours according to His riches – that should free us to live radical, risky, sacrificial, supernaturally empowered lives for the kingdom! Whatever God calls us to do – go for it with everything we've got! Lay down our lives – give wildly – love God – love others – love one another – be kind – serve – do good – put away any talk or gossip or anger or slander or griping or bitterness or pride or habit or sin or division. Wake up every day and fix our eyes on this one purpose – how can I glorify God in a big way today?

f. And then go to bed every night knowing this – He will supply every need of ours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus!

II. A Reason to Praise (v20)

a. Praise spontaneously erupts from our hearts to God when any one of these 3 things occur.

i. When we behold God and see Him, we can't help but praise Him. Sunday nights. III. Grand canyon – that's amazing. When we see God in His creation, when we see God in His Word, when we see God in Jesus – we praise Him!

ii. When we learn the ways of God, we can't help but praise Him. When we learn He is good and loving and sovereign and Father – we praise Him.

iii. When we experience God – when we taste and see that He is Good, we can't help but praise Him! When He saves us, and we

are nothing but no good sinners – we praise Him! When He proves faithful to His promises in our lives, we can't help but praise Him!

- b. Listen – Paul is praising God in v20 because He has just experienced the promise of v19!! He gave his life for gospel ministry and God was faithful to supply his every need through the church at Philippi!!
- c. If our praise is little to none, maybe we are not experiencing the promise and power of God in our lives!! Oh I want that! I need that! I pray to see God move in miraculous ways in my life. I want to be where God is moving and working. I want to see and taste the goodness of God – the bigger He moves, the louder we praise!!

III. Greetings and Grace

- a. Greetings – I don't think Paul means here that when our paths cross with believers we just smile and say, "What's up? How's it going?" I think Paul means here when our paths cross, fellowship and encourage one another. Greet each other.
- b. "especially those of Caesar's household" You know what that means – some Roman guards and officials have come to faith in Christ because Paul is there in prison shining the gospel light! Ahhh – now we know why God would allow Paul to be arrested for doing good! Now we know how Paul can be so joyful and content when he is suffering for doing good. He's on mission, even in prison, even in need. Those Romans aren't used to seeing people content and happy when life and circumstances are bitter. They couldn't help but notice there was something sweet about Paul, and he could tell them it's Jesus!
- c. The Paul closes the letter by praying for the Lord's grace to be with them. Notice he opened the letter and closed it the same way – praying for grace. Ch1:2 and ch4:23 – the opening and the closing. You know why? Because if we're going to really live this life for Christ and keep our eyes on Him and be completely different from the world, if we are going to live the body of this letter, we are going to need what's in the opening and closing of this letter – we're going to need a lot of grace!

Conclusion – ill. A truck load.