

Series on Philippians – sermon 38 - 3/04/11 (pm)

# **A Glorious Promise!**

Philippians 4:19-20

*Theme: God will meet all a Christian's needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

4:19-20 has been described as,  
*a soaring utterance of trust and praise,  
that would leave the readers with a  
sense of incalculable blessings still  
ahead* (G.P. Wiles).

Two important preliminary matters:

Firstly, is 4:19 a *wish-prayer* or a  
*promise*?

Opinion has been divided.

For grammatical reasons it seems best  
to take it as a promise.

Secondly, why does Paul bring this grand promise to the attention of the Philippians?

I suggest two reasons:

he wants to encourage the Philippians;

he has experienced the reality of the truth he is expressing.

There are four aspects to this grand promise.

## **1. The Sphere of the Promise (4:19d)**

God's promise is fulfilled *through* Jesus Christ in the lives of those who are *in* Jesus Christ.

The promise is for Christians only!

## 2. The Sureness of the Promise (4:19a)

This something that God will do.

The promise is for every Christian of  
every generation.

### 3. The Scope of the Promise (4:19b)

God will meet *all your needs*.

Two points about *needs*:

Firstly, God will supply all a Christian's *needs*, not *wants*.

Secondly, *needs* refers to *material* and *spiritual* needs.

(1:27-30; 2:1-5; 3:12-15; 4:4-8)

If our real need is material, God will meet it.

If our real need is spiritual, God will meet it. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

We are not always the best authorities to state our *need*!

We allow God to decide what our needs are.

## 4. The Source of the Promise (4:19c)

This verse literally says *according to his riches in glory*.

*according to His riches* The Philippians' needs will all be fully met from limitless resources by One Who gives as lavishly as only God can.

*in glory* The Christian will share in God's glory in the present, at the Second Advent and into eternity.

God will share with the Philippians His limitless resources both now in times of trial, and in the future when Jesus returns and beyond. The same assurance comes to Christians today.

# Conclusion—Doxology! (4:20)

A doxology is a short, spontaneous ascription of praise to God.

Paul bursts into a doxology after 4:19.

*This should be our response as we grasp 4:19!*