

Sermon Quotes
December 14th , 2008
Philippians 4:14 – 23 Closing message of series

2 Points This Morning:

1. How the Gospel changes our hearts about Money.
2. Paul's Perspective on God's Provision (and why it should become our own).

When we give to the Lord's work—either to the church or to the poor—from a heart motivated to glorify God, it is a powerful evidence of God's grace at work in our hearts.

*"The objects of most our desires are not evil. The problem is the way they **tend to grow**, and the control they come to exercise over our hearts...The problem with desire is that in sinners it very quickly morphs into demand...The expansion of desire doesn't end there. **Demand quickly morphs into need. I now view the thing as essential to life**...How often do we live with a sense of need for things we do not need at all? How does this change the way we view ourselves, our lives, others, and God? How much envy, discouragement, bitterness, and doubt of God comes from being convinced that we are being denied the things we need to live life as it was meant to be?"*

—Paul David Tripp

1 Timothy 6:6-10 "Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. **But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.** But those who **desire to be rich** fall into temptation, into a snare, into **many senseless and harmful desires** that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is **through this craving** that some have wandered away from the faith..."

"Those were times of great hardness of heart [in the Roman era] There was no sort of provision for the poor...For the most part, charity was dead. The leaders of that degenerate age planned no hospitals and built no orphanages: they were too intent upon their gladiators and their mistresses. Self was paramount in Caesar's court, and over all the Roman realms. But here were a people at Philippi thinking about one who had preached the gospel to them, and who is now suffering. They are moved by a new principle. Love for God in Christ Jesus has created love for the man whose Word has changed them. They will not abandon him: they will out of their own slender means cheer his sad condition. These were a generous people, and Paul is happy in thinking of them. I may here dare say that I also have had like joy over many of you when I have seen how freely you have given of your substance to the work of the Lord. It would be unfair if I withheld commendation for the generosity from many now before me. You have rejoiced my heart by your gifts to the cause of God. You have given up to the measure of your means, and some of you beyond what we could have asked of you. The gospel has taught you this. To God be glory that it is so."

—Charles Spurgeon