

Spiritual Sacrifices

Philippians 4: 14 – 18
Solid Rock Church
Pastor Elliott Anderson





Philippians 4

Spiritual Stability 4: 1 - 3

Spiritual Thinking 4: 4 - 9

Spiritual Contentment 4: 10 - 13

Spiritual Sacrifices 4: 14 – 18

Spiritual Riches 4: 19 - 23

What Isn't Spiritual Sacrifice

Allowing sinful Christians to dominate you

Allowing sinful friends to hinder your faith

Serving the Church out of obligation

Serving the Church in a compulsive manner

Giving financially to Church from your excess

Giving materially to the community from your extras

Focus on “I”

4: 10 – 13 8X

v. 10 I rejoiced in the Lord

v. 11 I have learned

v. 12 I know how to live

v. 13 I can do all things





Focus on “you(r)”

4: 14 – 20 8X

- v. 14 Yet it was kind of you
- v. 15 and you Philippians
- v. 16 even in Thessalonica
you sent me
- v. 18 the gifts you sent
- v. 19 every need of yours

Contentment Leads to Sacrifice

—

Discontented we try to control our own circumstances

Contented we try to help others in their circumstances

Discontented we think negatively and are pessimistic

Contented we think positively and are optimistic

Discontented we become selfish and self-focused

Contented we become sacrificial and others-focused

3 Spiritual Sacrifice Examples From Church of Philippi

1. Shared in Paul's affliction

4: 14, Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction

Affliction: a state of deep suffering, hardship and distress.

Matthew 4:24

²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.

Jesus cares for
and heals the
afflicted

We are to
care for
the
afflicted
also

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

Psalm 82:3



It's Sacrificial to Share Affliction

Time and energy

Likely inconvenient / draining

Honors God / Body of Christ

3 Spiritual Sacrifice Examples from Church of the Philippi

2. Shared in financial partnership

4: 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.



MACEDONIA

THRACE

**Philippi
Neapolis**

Amphipolis

Thessalonica

Berea

Apollonia

Samothrace

Paul's Macedonian Ministry

49-50 AD, Acts 16:6-17:15

Troas

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3 Spiritual Sacrifice Examples from the Church of Philippi

2. Shared in financial partnership

4: 16, for **even in Thessalonica** you sent a gift more than once for my need.

What's the big deal about that?

Acts 17: 1 – 3 **Paul in Thessalonica**

Now they came to Thessalonica where there was a Synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying this Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.

Acts 17: 4 – 5

Paul in Thessalonica

And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews were jealous and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.



Acts 17: 10 – 12

Paul out of Thessalonica

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by **night to Berea (50 miles – 3 days walk)**, and when they arrived, they went into the Jewish Synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica, they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

Acts 17: 13 - 15

Paul out of Macedonia

But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul in Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds. Then the brothers **immediately sent Paul away by sea**, but Silas and Timothy remained there.

Berea to Athens

185 miles journey

26 miles to the port

150 miles on the sea

9 mile walk to Athens



Philippian Church

Faithful Financial Support

All the traveling was expensive.

Food, lodging, many people, taxes, bribes

Trouble in Thessalonica – money sent (90 miles)

Persecution in Berea – money sent (50 miles)

Had to leave Macedonia – money sent / used



It's Sacrificial to Partner Financially

Money + surrender

Faith and trust

Honors God / Body of Christ



3 Spiritual Sacrifice Examples from the Church of Philippi

3. Shared their Leaders

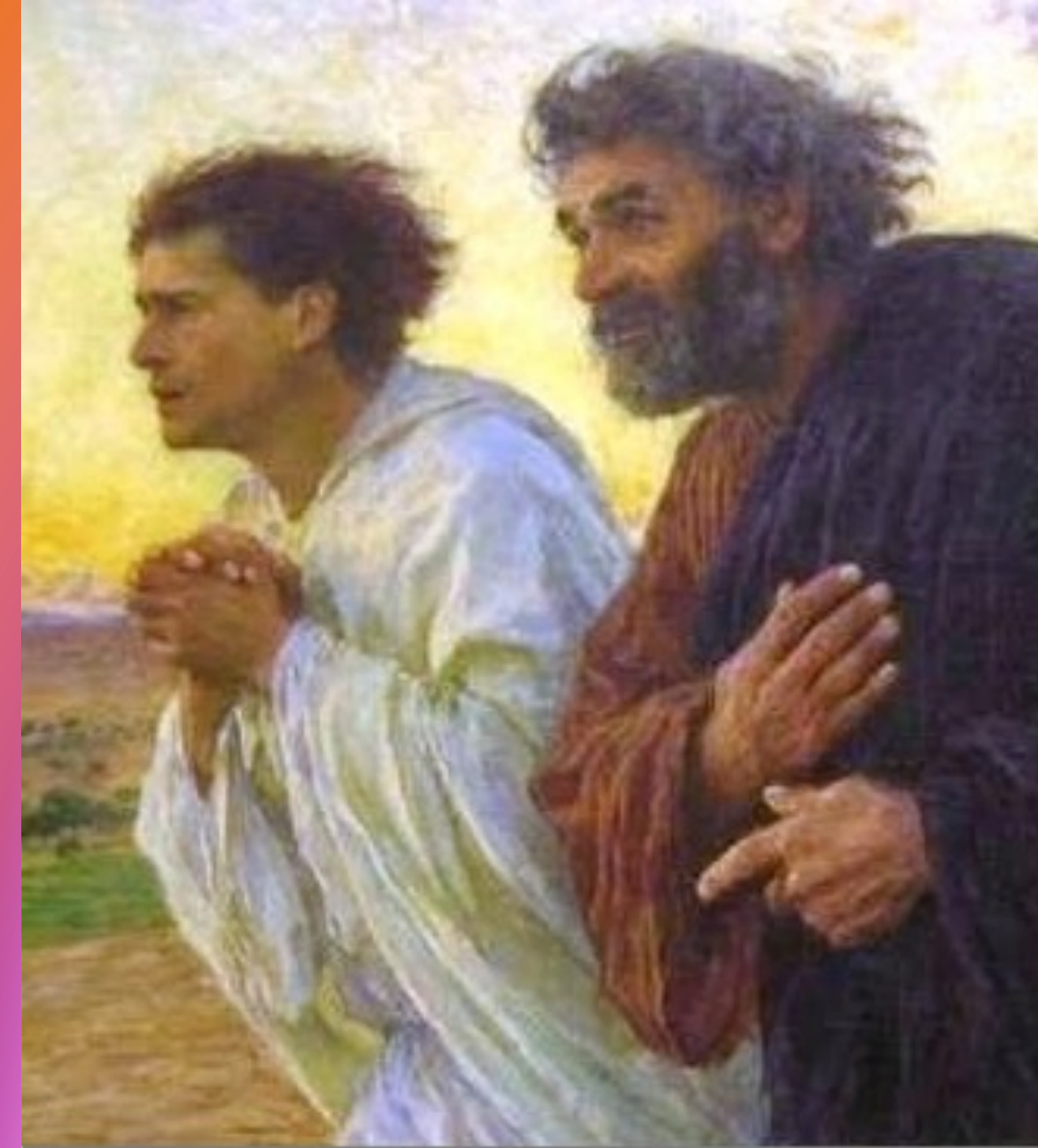
4: 18, I have received full payment and more. I am well supplied, having received from **Epaphroditus** the gift you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

Epaphroditus

Paul called him a brother, worker, soldier, messenger and minister who risked his life for the cause of the Gospel.

Name means “devoted to Aphrodite” Likely, Roman soldier who retired in Philippi.

Brought Paul \$ from Philippi
Took Paul’s letter back



Fragrant Aroma

OT sacrificial language.

Numbers 15: 3, Then make an offering by fire to the Lord, a burnt offering or a sacrifice to fulfill a special vow, or as a freewill offering... to make a **fragrant aroma** to the Lord...





Christ: **THE** **Fragrant Aroma**

Ephesians 5:1 – 2,
Therefore be imitators of
God, as beloved children;
and walk in love, just as
Christ also loved you, and
gave Himself up for us, an
offering and a sacrifice to
God as a fragrant aroma.

Spiritual Sacrifices: the Church to God

Hebrews 13: 15 – 16,
Through Christ then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that gives thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.





It's Sacrificial to Share Leaders

Freedom in faith

Openness to others

Honors God / Body of Christ

Spiritual Sacrifice Offerings

We are to share
in our
afflictions

prayer,
comfort, love,
time, energy

We are to share
financially in
ministry

tithes, gifts,
donations,
resources

We are to share
leaders

A&O, Engage
Africa, Kato's,
AJ, Churches

What Spiritual Sacrifice Is

Sharing prayer, affliction, joys,
and celebrations

Sharing money, resources, and
material things

Sharing in life, love, and
ministry together

