

# REFLECTIONS

Even In Hard  
Times, God is  
Still Our Supply!

River Road  
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# Reflections

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*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phi 4:19)*

When the markets fail, jobs are lost, and we find ourselves in the grip of recession, it can be difficult to trust God to meet our needs. We have become so accustomed to our pay check meeting our needs that when it is not available we simply have great difficulty seeing how God can possibly meet our needs without benefit of that income. Prudently, we begin to look for ways to cut our expenses and diligently pursue new places of possible employment, and we pray for God's help but, at the same time, we often make giving to God one of our first "cuts" as we trim away at our expenses. Yet since God has declared His promise to meet our needs as we acknowledge Him with our possessions and firstfruits of our labor are we not "cutting" in the wrong place?

Let's examine some of God's promises regarding His care and our acknowledgement of Him with our possessions and money. *<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; <sup>10</sup> So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. (Pro 3:9-10).* And... *<sup>10</sup> Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Mal 3:1)* Also... *"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." (Luke 6:38)* It is quite evident that giving to God our acknowledgement of His greatness, His provision of strength, and His care for us, with our possessions and our wealth is a necessary part of our relationship with Him.

On occasion it seems that our tests of faith are almost more than we can bear, yet He calls us to Himself to receive rest for our souls and assures us that He is in control of life's events and that He will make these things work to our benefit. (Romans 8:28) Learning to trust Him is often the greatest challenge of all because that trust only truly comes to light in the midst of trial. Jesus calls on us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all that we need will be added to us. (Matthew 6:33-34) What kinds of needs will He

supply? Let's rehearse a few of the needs that we might face and His promises related to meeting those needs according to "His riches in glory".

Are you feeling alone? He has promised that He will never leave or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5) Are you burdened with guilt? In Christ you are made new and can live in Him without condemnation. (2Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:1) Do you feel loaded down with care? Give your cares to Him because He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7, Matthew 11:28) Are you struggling with illness? You can ask Him for deliverance or even endurance, and you can call for the elders to pray for you. (James 5:13-14) Are you really discouraged? Let the Word speak peace to your heart. His Word can be of great encouragement. (Philippians 4:4-9) Regardless of your need, Jesus can be your supply.

When we assess our needs and face them by looking within the limitations of our own resources, our needs seem to be large and possibly even insurmountable. We can find ourselves down, despairing and ready to give up hope. But when we become aware of His vast resources and the fact of our salvation and adoption into His body, and then we assess our needs, we quickly discover that His resources far exceed any need that we could present Him with. Even if we, like the Apostle Paul, are required to endure a "thorn in the flesh", (2 Corinthians 12:7-9) we too can receive His assurance that His grace is sufficient for each of us. We too can declare that the reality of walking with Christ provides opportunities for us to see the greatness of God that has been placed in us through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior. *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; <sup>8</sup> we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. (2Co 4:7-10)* Here Paul reminds us, by the example of his own life experiences walking in faithfulness to Christ, that because of the life given in Christ and manifested in us, we can face whatever circumstances come our way and not be defeated or destroyed. We know that in this life we will experience many difficulties, personal challenges, and great blessings as well, but in every circumstance we can declare with the Apostle John... *greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (1 Jo 4:4)* He truly is our supply! **Pastor Doug**