

So. N. Jul. 25, 73 A.M.

GOD CAN REALLY MEET OUR NEEDS!

Phil. 4:19

Most exciting sentence in the N. T. -- "My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Search a long time to find anything comparable to it anywhere.

Our problem is not recognizing its message, but in believing/in the dependability of this truth.

Words are not just a text -- a testimony.

Words do not center on the writer or a research person.

Words of a man who has lived in this world, trials, dissappointments, defeats.

(II Cor. 11:24-28) A summary of his experiences -- "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice was I shipwrecked, a night and day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren, in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches."

The Philippian Church had been passing through difficult days. Subject to persecution.

Paul was writing from prison to thank them for their gifts and all kindness. Caesar ruled and Paul writes his friends whom he trusts and loves.

I. ALL OF US HAVE NEEDS

Whether we believe the affirmation of Paul or not (that God can meet) we are forced to recognize our needs.

They are so pronounced.

They sweep us off our feet as a crisis.

They are real and we must handle them.

May doubt that there is any person or power which can adequately supply our deep needs of mind - heart.

We cannot escape them.

We cannot deny that situations try us.

We cannot blindfold ourselves.

Sooner or later we find life is not comfortable. Most of you have lived long enough to know that human experience cannot handle these needs.

Newspaper story, March 29, 1953 - Associated Press. "The stout heart which beat inside Jim Thorpe as he stormed to the pinnacle of the sport's world, gave out Saturday. The Sak and Fox Indian was the greatest athlete in the last fifty years."

No matter how strong and powerful we may be athletically, there is a day when our powers fail us.

All have needs.

✓ II. AN AWARENESS OF NEED

Awareness of physical, mental, spiritual - need essential.

Man - Doctor says you "must quit work". - Specialist. You have a heart condition, blood pressure problems, diabetes, etc. By disciplining himself he may live much longer, gain a few extra blessed years. He learns how to handle it, live with it.

Better than refusing to recognize his need.

Dentists - same principle - see him once or twice a year. Brush your teeth twice a day.

Carrying for a need. Some fellow said I use an electric toothbrush. I see my dentist two times a year, but I see my electrician three times a week.

Caution - needs not desires - we turn desires into necessities.

Few years ago reports of a test claim average American.

Beginning of this century wanted 78 different things - considered 18 important.

Half century later wanted 496 different things - considered 96 necessary happiness.

God's people are (not) immune - wants, whims, considered essential.

Alex. Maclaren - "The axiom of Christian faith is that whatever we do not obtain we do not require."

Paul had a thorn in the flesh - he wanted it removed, a desire beyond question.

✓ III. THE REALITY OF DIVINE RESOURCES

Whatever our deepest needs are.

The response of help can be just as real as the demand for help.

Divine aid is more than adequate for crises - for exacting demands.

Some people feel that Paul is not dealing with life realistically.

The attitude of people towards truth does not change the facts.

III. (Yellow Fever) - Doctor learned germ carried by a mosquito, a female of a particular species. She must receive the germ from some sufferer of the yellow fever at a particular period in the time of his suffering.

She must carry the infection in her body for a specified length of time. Then she can successfully inject the germ into the body of a healthy person.

Easy to smile at these facts. Some laughed hilariously - "The female is more deadly than the male".

Laughing at facts not way to deal with facts.

Speaker - Hyde Park London - "He that doeth the will shall know the doctrine."

Heckler - "We've had Christianity two thousand years, and look at the state of the world!"

Yes, the speaker replied, "And we have had water and soap a million years and look at your dirty face."

Must use a power for it to become effective.

We need to be equipped for the unexpected!

Handle conditions with skill.

We never know what is immediately ahead of us. Life is a conglomeration, many accidents, made up of day and night, joy and sorrow, peace and pain.

Prepare for today, tomorrow, avoid specific difficulty.

Dean Wicks - Princeton Chapel - Story of Fox Hunters Club in New Jersey. Group agreed on time - horses saddled - ready - women clad in attire variegated colors - registered hounds, superb training.

Servant in club dragged the skin of dead fox across the fields which they planned to ride.

One day, unexpectedly a live fox crossed the trail, the five blood hounds were off with new excitement barking with "musical rhythm" that thrilled the riders. The horses galloped after the hounds. Riders who had never had any idea of galloping off to where they went that day suddenly faced conditions altogether different from what they had anticipated. The ditches were broader than any they had ever tried to jump. There were higher fences to be scaled and hedges to be cleared out of proportion to those the hunters had previously been compelled to negotiate. Women were left sprawled on the green grass. Unable to manage the ditches they had to jump. Men were knocked from their saddles by the limbs of trees in the woods through which the horses raced as they followed the barking hounds.

Life is like that - unexpected - unplanned - unanticipated.

We can not know what we shall have to encounter.

Uncertainty.

How can one miss the sure promise.

My God - how personal! He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Will Supply - how positive!

Literally - will fill up or fill to the full.

Every need of yours - how provident!

From cradle to the grave a bundle of needs. Peeled off a layer each day.

IV. POWER TO SUPPLY EVERY NEED

Paul insists there is power of which we can meet every possible need.

Life would be different if we could accept this.

A scholarly Scotchman, defeated by drink caught a glimpse of how this power could affect his whole life.

Henry Drummond leaving friends home in hills of Scotland.

The Host told him that he and his wife were going to accompany him to the village where he was to catch the train.

Our coachman is a wonderful man, unusual scholar, but defeated by drink. They told Drummond - hope - opportunity to say something to him.

Henry Drummond climbed into the seat next to the coachman and before the driver realized what was happening, Drummond had won his mind and way into his heart.

Driver confessed his failures expressing regret.

Suppose said Mr. Drummond, as we ride along these curves and hills, the horses you are driving got out of control. Then you suddenly realized you could not manage them. In a flash, however, you recalled that the man who sat beside you was the finest horseman in Scotland and that there had never been a span of horses which he could not control. What would you do?"

Oh, exclaimed the coachman, "Is that what Christ expects me to do?"

Exactly! Replied Henry Drummond - "Turn the reins of your life over to
him!"

This is what Paul did. Turned his entire life to God in Christ, to the
Christlike God.

"According to his (riches) in glory - Exhaustless treasures - This brings
the riches of Christ down amongst us.

No condition God is not capable of meeting.

All have needs - different from coachman - maybe bad disposition, unmastered
temper, tongue we cannot control.

It may be some moral failure has disturbed us. How weak we become when
we face overwhelming odds.

I remember many involved and without hope.

How they confessed and God meets each need.

Each of us eventually faces conditions that demand resources greater
than his own.

Some are very proud of how modern they are.

Some are very proud do not suffer deep guilt or shame.

Some are very proud no frustration in their life.

Whatever your need - Paul - God is able to meet it. Testimony of a man.

Woman R. J. Campbell told of earned living singing. Child critically ill. Singing at footlights. No heart to sing an encore. Applause beyond politeness.

Eager to get home. Dr. - Child critical.

1st request - "Mummie, Sing to me". Mother who had fled the footlights not bear to sing encore, lifted the child, walked floor singing.

"I think when I read that sweet story of old,
When Jesus was here among men,
How He called little children as lambs to his fold,
I should liked to have been with them then."

She was singing about death. We have been talking about practical matters. This is the kind of religion that concerns us! That mother, needed the resources of God, preparation for something she had not anticipated.

We can know some experiences ahead - old age - death.

Moody said God had given him "Living Grace" and when the time comes for death he will give dying grace.

Paul knows there is someone who cares. This is thrilling truth of Christianity. Paul testimony. Thousands have found it dependable.

Sooner or later we do have to experience death. Closing hours of O. Henry's life - semi-conscious state he called Nurse, Nurse. She hurried to his bed. What do you want? O. Henry replied, "Bring me a candle"

"Why do you want a candle, Sir?"

"I'm afraid to go home in the dark."

No matter when, or where we face the dangerous difficult hours of life at the close of physical existence and we do not have to go home in the dark. The riches of his grace brings light. "It is not night if thou art near".
Son of my soul.

My God shall supply all that you need from his glorious resources in Christ Jesus.