

TOPIC: SERVING GOD IS NOT IN VAIN

TEXT: PHIL 4: 14-19, 1 COR 15:58

Paul's confidence in the Philistines is based not only on God's work, but also their passion and sacrifice for the cause of Christ. Because they had already proven to be faithful in supporting and partnering in the work of ministry, Paul was certain that God would continue to work in and through them.

From the above scriptures we learn that:

1. He commended them for their commitment to God and ministry (v 15-16)

- They had consistently stood with him (ministry) since he came to them from Macedonia (to him it was a partnership)
- They had sacrificially given themselves to serve God which encouraged him leading to the salvation of many.
- At the same time, they equally gave their resources to support him as he went about preaching.
- He tells them that not once but over and over again they tirelessly gave. They were also the only church that stood with him even when he went to Thessalica (they were consistent)
- They served with all their hearts as unto the Lord (Col 23-24)
- Just like Apostle Paul, I can confidently say the same to you dear people. Thanks for your commitment to God and to the ministry. Consistently you have sacrificed your time and resources for the work of God since January and God giving us 2024, we are still ready to continue.
- Your consistency in giving is not only in tithes and offerings but also in the forums e.g. In the departments and ministries including the great fundraiser that we had in July.
- Thanks for being such a beautiful spirit and may the Lord God bless you!

2. He assured that that God was going to reward them.

- "My God will supply all your needs..." (v 19)
- Apostle Paul emphasizes the loving care of God to his children
- As we remain faithful to God and willing to share with the needy, then God will in turn meet all our needs (material, physical and spiritual)
- The fact that God will meet our needs in Christ means that, only as we remain united with Christ in a close personal companionship
- God will also do exceedingly abundantly above our expectation
- May the Lord remember and bless each one of you for your faithfulness and commitment.

- Indeed, our labor in the Lord is not in vain. It carries a reward now and in eternity.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL IN JESUS NAME