



## Pastor's Pen

*And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:19***

Dear Bethel Church family and friends,

Grace and peace to you in the strong and matchless name of our Risen Savior. As I write this month, the ice from our most recent ice storm is slowly melting. Praise the Lord, it wasn't nearly as bad as it could have been! Saints, if you need anything due to the storm, please don't hesitate to contact me.

It's my incredible privilege to write about God's great and precious promises made to us as His people. This time, we're returning to the New Testament for a more detailed look at the pledge found in Paul's letter to the Philippians. As the Apostle to the Gentiles closes this joyful letter, we come across this gem. Here, Paul assures us that God will meet all our needs. James Montgomery Boice, the deceased, former pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, wrote that this may be the greatest promise in the entire Bible. How come? Because it contains within it every other Scriptural promise.

Before going further, let's get this pledge in its proper context. Why? So that we can properly understand it. Paul thanks the church for meeting his material needs while he sits in prison. Don't forget that during this period in Roman history, family and friends often had to take care of the physical needs of those incarcerated by the state. If these individuals could not provide regular food, water, and clothing, the prisoners would be left to die, an unhappy fate to be sure.

With this background in place, let's explore the promise in more detail. Right away, we see the foundation of the pledge. Paul writes that it is **my** God who will do the blessing. **My** God, who will meet your needs. Why my God and not simply God, or your God? Paul does this to remind us that it is the God of the Bible, the God whose message the Apostle faithfully preaches, who is the One making this promise. Therefore, we can trust Him to keep His Word.

We also notice the promise itself, that God will "meet all your needs." Let's focus on one little word here, the term **all**. What this word means is that whatever we really need, regardless of what it is, the Lord will supply it. Of course, our first and foremost need is to have our broken relationship with God healed, to be forgiven. Well, the Holy One of Israel meets that need. Isaiah reminds us of this reality. "**Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon**" (Isa.55:7). Do you find yourself in need of grace? Scripture teaches that the Lord's grace is sufficient for each of us (2 Cor. 12:9). God's promise is as wide-ranging as the requirements of our lives. Finally, we also take note of the supply of the vow. The Lord gives not according to what we've earned. Instead, He blesses us in accordance with "His glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Can you imagine? We aren't supplied according to our resources—which are limited and finite—but according to God's riches in Christ—which are unlimited and infinite.

At first glance, this promise seems unbelievable. God will meet all of our needs. Really? Every single one? But we remember that the prophet uses the word "needs" here. He's speaking of real requirements, not our wildest dreams or the ungodly desires of our fallen hearts. And therein lies the key. Unfortunately, it seems to me that we often confuse those things. Real needs are food, shelter, clothing, fellowship, worship, forgiveness, and grace. They are not the material goods our society thrusts upon us, such as the newest iPod, a flat-screen 3-D TV, or a virtual reality headset. Hopefully, that isn't news to anyone reading this. But saints, we need to ask ourselves how well our lives, our homes, and our checkbooks reflect this priority. Beloved, what we genuinely need is less stuff and more God. It is my prayer that all of our lives would reflect that desire more clearly each day.

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Chris

## this week

Sunday's sermon:

*The Ministry of Christ*

1 Peter 3:18-22

Congregational Luncheon  
2/1 after service

Youth Committee Meeting  
2/1 at 4:00 pm

Youth  
2/1 at 5:00 pm

Men of the Covenant  
2/2 at 6:30 pm

Circle #1  
2/3 at 10:30 am

## events

GriefShare  
2/3 at 1:00 pm

Diaconate Meeting  
2/3 at 7:00 pm

Men's Bible Study  
2/4 at 6:00 am

Mentors & Moms  
2/5 at 9:30 am

Parent Night Out  
2/7 at 4:30 pm

## volunteer schedule

Infant Nursery  
Kathy Compton  
and Lawson Gray

Toddler Nursery  
Jenifer Riddle  
and Ann Falls

Worship Training  
Jenni Quinn and  
Nathalee Cuffman