



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

Life Support Philippians 4:10-19

10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

As Christ came into the world to give life, He in turn commissioned and deployed us on mission to likewise go and take His love, life and hope into all the world ...*taking true life support to the world.*

1 – life support originates in the local church

15 "...when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; Paul, like missionaries today, relied on the local churches for support...reinforcing the reality that without the local church there would be no missions.....*no life support for a dying world!*

2 – life support is demonstrated by the local church

10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. Paul rejoiced not only in the gift, but more importantly what it represented ...support and partnership in the Lord's work.

MISSIONS: The missionary enterprise of the church; The composite of the efforts that Christians make to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the world. "Missions are the legs of the Body of Christ and Missionaries do the walking."

life support: **MISSIONARIES**

Missionary – from Latin root "to send" **ACTS 13:2** *While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

life support: **MATERIALS & MONEY** 16 *for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.*

Because life support is often complicated, expensive and time consuming it requires a personal sacrificial investment ...**as do all things of significant worth!**

3 – life support brings blessings to the local church

17 "... I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

The church that is faithful to its call by investing itself in world missions is the church that is being blessed by God immeasurably.

4 – life support is pleasing to God

18 "...I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

Just as the sacrificial roasting of animals to honor God and cover man's sin in the Old Testament was a sweet aroma to God for what it signified, so is sacrificial giving to missions... the fragrant life support.

the challenge

- We must never forget the great need that exists in the world for life support.
- We must never forget that life support is our responsibility and calling and never assume it will be taken care of by others.
- We must never forget that we have been deployed as His chosen army to take life support to all the world ...to evangelize the world and make disciples
- We must renew our vision and the urgency of our commitment to missions as if life itself depended on it....**INDEED IT DOES!**