**HOLY SAVIOUR, BITTERNE BIBLE STUDY – WEEK BEGINNING AUGUST 30th**

**PHILIPPIANS 4.10-23 – GIVING & RECEIVING**

*Paul was reluctant to receive financial support from those to whom he preached. He wanted it to be clear that the Gospel came without cost and to distinguish himself from the travelling philosophers and teachers who sought to make money from their speaking. The Philippians, however, had sent support to Paul from the time he left Philippi. Circumstances had meant they hadn’t been able to do so for a while until the gift Epaphroditus had just brought (2.25). This study shows Paul’s response to this ‘giving and receiving’*. ***As usual you may find it helpful to jot down your thoughts about the questions in the spaces provided*** *–* ***and it would be really good to share them with others.*** *Phone, Skype, email some members of your homegroup or a friend and/or email me your thoughts (* brianparfitt@btinternet.com*).* ***Brian Parfitt***

To whom do you give presents or money? What are the reasons behind that giving?

**READ Philippians 4.10-23**

**PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL (verses 10-17a & reread 1.3-5)**

Earlier in the letter Paul wrote of the Philippians partnership with him in the gospel. How had they shown their support for him? How does Paul express his thanks with a sensitivity that doesn’t seem to be asking for more? From your reading of the letter how would you sum up the feelings Paul and the Philippian Christians had for each other?

***Are there people with whom you share a ‘partnership in the gospel’ – perhaps some of our church missionary links or others you know? How is that partnership shown? Are there ways it could be improved?***

**CONTENTMENT IN EVERY SITUATION (verses 11-13)**

How had Paul discovered the secret of being content when in his journeys there were times of want and of plenty?

***How much is our contentment dependent on outward circumstances and our material belongings? In what ways do changes in circumstances affect us? What can we learn from the way Paul coped with both need and plenty?***

**FELLOWSHIP IN GIVING (verses 14-20)**

How does Paul value the gifts he has received from the Philippians? How does Paul portray their spiritual significance? What does Paul say about the way God is able to meet needs?

***How do you view your giving – duty or delight or …..? Do your attitudes need to change?***

***How well do you receive support and help from others?***

***How do you give to support church? missionaries? those in need? family and friends? others?***

**ENCOURAGEMENT IN GREETING (verses 21-23)**

How would the Philippians be encouraged by the greetings in these verses from people, some of whom they might know, some of them not? How might Paul’s prayer for them in verse 23 sum up the message of this letter?

***Why is keeping in touch with others and encouraging them important? How has this been seen during the Covid-19 crisis? How can we give encouragement to others?***