

Provisional glory

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
Philippians 4:19-20*

In the context before these verses, the apostle Paul is commending the Philippian church for their spirit of giving that they had evidenced throughout his ministry. He mentions their support for him during his mission work among and beyond them. Then he thanks them for the recent supply that they sent to him in his Roman jail, through their messenger Epaphroditus. He compares their gift to a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God, reminiscent of the Jewish sacrificial worship that he would have grown up with. He then adds this reminder that the heavenly Father is the one who would also supply their need, even as He has used them to supply his.

This sentiment reaches back to the model prayer that the Lord taught His disciples and the accompanying crowd in His Sermon on the Mount. Particularly among the petitions included in the prayer was the first request for personal needs: "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). The petitions up to that point were focused on the holiness and glory of God, both in the honor of His name and in His kingdom, whether in heaven or earth. After it, the personal needs for forgiveness and deliverance from evil are further requested. Then the conclusion reminds the supplicant of the reason for all these requests: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever" (Matthew 6:13). Thus, we find sandwiched in the midst of what we might regard as more spiritual petitions the simple fact that we need the Father's gracious hand to provide our daily material needs. The apostle in our text acknowledges this connection, that in supplying our daily needs our heavenly Father's glory is just as much revealed. We also then ought to remember to praise Him for His kingdom, power, and glory in acknowledging His provision of our daily needs.