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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ  
 Greater Hartford Chapter  
 December 23, 2015**

- Welcome! Opening prayer and praise reports
- **Today's topic: Living a Life of Giving in a Taking Culture**

*“You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” --Acts 20:34-35*



The calling into “tentmaking” Christian entrepreneurship, like the apostle Paul, has its assortment of abundant opportunities and challenges. Paul preached strong messages on a strong work ethic, and had little patience with those who were lazy and unwilling to manufacture a living. He led by example, not wanting the *purity of his motives* for ministry questioned and not wanting to “make merchandise” of anyone. Nor did he want to *manipulate* anyone. Those who helped him did so based on their freewill choices and the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Over the years, I have facilitated approximately 380 local FCCI group meetings in Tolland and Vernon. Many Christian business owners have plugged into these meetings, to various degrees. Some have stayed for a short while, others for a long while. Others phase in and out. But all have been fed the Word of God, and have been encouraged and equipped in some capacity, to operate Godly businesses.

While I have ministry expenses, I do not fundraise. While I need to make a living, I do not use these meetings to “get business.” I seek to live a Matthew 6 life. Year after year, the Lord has provided in His time and in His way. Both the business and ministry operate debt-free with all expenses paid.

- This morning, as we ramp up for Christmas, I have a few questions:
- How has the Lord used this group to encourage and equip you? Any specific examples?
  - Examining all aspects of your life, do you have a track record of being a giver or a taker?
  - How might the Lord be stirring you to be more giving of time, talent, tongue and treasure in 2016?

- Next meetings: January 6, January 20, February 3, February 17

Evaluate your biz from 1 (weak) to 10 (strong) in terms of giving.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by being a more generous giver?										
What specific actions can you take to do so?										

- Upcoming events/news
- Closing prayer