

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“THE HEART OF GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP”

For individual study or discussion

Focusing on Paul’s letter to the Philippians this week, we step away from our studies in the *Gospel of Luke* to highlight **World Missions Week** as we welcome to the mountain our longstanding Gospel partners from Central Asia. Over the years, **The Heart of Gospel Partnership** between LMPC and Bible Mission Global has been defined by *joyful gratitude for the past, deep affection for the present, and confident prayer toward the future.*

The heart of Gospel partnership is joyful gratitude for the past. (vv. 3-5)

After Paul sends his initial greetings in his letter to the church at Philippi, we observe his affection for the church as he expresses joyful gratitude for their Gospel partnership. As LMPC rejoices and gives thanks for its partnership with Bible Mission Global, we recall the stories of hearts and lives that have been transformed by the Gospel.

- The Bible often links joy with prayer. Why should joy be such a vital part of our prayer lives? Read John 16:23-24.
- Over what specifically does Paul express thanksgiving and joy in verse 5? Discuss what it means to have a “*partnership in the gospel.*” Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 for insight into what kinds of partnerships Christians should avoid.

The heart of Gospel partnership is deep affection in the present. (vv. 7-8)

Gospel partnerships should be relationally deep. During World Missions Week, not only do we welcome our missionary friends, but LMPC also hosts events for our church members to attend where they can meet with and pray for our partners. Through sharing meals together and hearing ministry updates, LMPC hopes to deepen the bonds of affection within our partnership so that our missionaries, as well as our church, will feel encouraged.

- Consider how Paul and the Philippians partnered with each other. Read Hebrews 10:23-25 and Romans 15:1-7. How can your small group encourage and support each other? How can your small group encourage and support our church and its partners?
- What causes you to give thanks, rejoice over, and have affection for those in your small group and church community? Tell them! Read Psalm 133 together.

The heart of Gospel partnership is confident prayer toward the future. (vv. 3-4, 6, 9-11)

Paul’s prayer centers on the fuel of Christian community: **Love**. “*And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more*” (v. 9). Praying with the confident hope we have in Christ, Paul guides us in prayer so that our love for one another will grow. In *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes, “*A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another... I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray... [but he] is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died.*”¹

- What does it mean for our love to “*abound more and more*” (v. 9)? How is growing in love for one another a good pattern for discipleship (1 Thessalonians 4:1, 9-10)?
- Read John 15:1-17. How is Jesus’ teaching on the vine and branches similar to what Paul is writing to the church at Philippi? What is the connection between Jesus Christ and our fruit? How can we pray confidently toward the future knowing that we are “in Christ”?

DATE: February 9, 2025

SPEAKER: Wil/Brian

SERIES: World Missions Week

PASSAGE: Philippians 1:3-11

RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

DAY 22: To glorify God by giving our lives away around the world

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, as we seek to glorify you by giving ourselves away around the world, today we pray for the nations of the world. Make known your way of salvation throughout the earth, that all the nations may praise you. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Lord, we pray for our World Missions Partners around the globe. How will the nations call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how will they hear unless someone preaches? And how will they preach unless they are sent? We thank you for our missions partners around the world who are preaching the Good News, and for the joy and privilege of partnering with them. Bless their work today. Renew our zeal for evangelism and mission. We ask you to raise up new missionaries from our congregation to preach the Gospel across the world. Lord, we long for that day pictured in Revelation 7 when we will worship around your throne with people from every nation, tribe, and tongue. So we ask that you continue to build your church. Bring your saved offspring from the east and gather them from the west. Say to the north, ‘Give them up,’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back!’ Bring your sons from far-off places, and your daughters from the ends of the earth. Let all the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Lifespring Community

Health, supported partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Bible Mission Global, world missions partner

¹ Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. Translated by John W. Doberstein. 1954, San Francisco. Harper and Row Publishers. 86