



## Gospel Partnership ⑥

### Introduction: What is gospel partnership

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Today's sermon is #6 in the gospel partnership series. What do you think? Has anything stirred your heart? What is gospel partnership? Maybe some would hear this title and think "I knew it, the church is just a cult that wants your money". Others might be interested in becoming gospel partners but are asking about how we can do think concretely. What is gospel partnership? Today's scripture passage answers that question in 3 ways. First is partnership to expand the gospel. Secondly, partnering in suffering. Thirdly, partnering in joy.

### SCRIPTURE | Philippians 1:1-7, Philippians 4:10-23

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1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,  
To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.  
10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were 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 all this 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 more than once when I was in need. 17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. 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 the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. 22 All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

### QUESTIONS |

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- 1: What is Paul praising God for in chapter 1:3-5
- 2: In 1:7 in what kind of circumstances did Paul partner with the Philippians? How will you become a gospel partner in sharing the gospel? Discuss.
- 3: In 4:14-16 how do the Philippians share in suffering with Paul?
- 4: How do you think we can share one another's burdens as we live in this metropolis?
- 5: In 4:17-18 What do you think about the gospel partnership described in these verses?



6: When you partner in the gospel our motivation, purpose and pattern is Jesus Christ. Did Jesus for humanity partner to spread the gospel, partner in suffering and partner in joy? This week, how will you respond to the grace seen in Christ's gospel partnership?

### PRAYER |

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- Jesus did not walk in the desire of the world but in the joy of God the father. All opposed Jesus and his earthly life seemed to be of no value but through his life we received forgiveness, salvation and eternal life. Praise God for Jesus' gospel partnership.
- We are being invited to partner with gospel. How do you think you can partner with the gospel?

### UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

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Lunchtime meetings: 4/11 Akasaka & Kudanshita, 4/12 Marunouchi & Kasumigaseki, 4/13 Otemachi  
Good Friday Worship & Fellowship (4/14 KDDI 7:30)  
How to lead a bible study seminar (4/15)  
Easter Sunday Worship & Fellowship (4/16)  
London Team send-off party (4/16 after the second service)  
Grace choir (4/17)  
Lunchtime meetings 4/18 Akasaka, 4/19 Kasumigaseki, 4/20 Otemachi  
Obento project (4/22)  
Film discussion (4/22)  
Worship & Fellowship (4/23)