

Philippians: To live is Christ.

Session 2: Partners in the Good News (Phil.1:1-11)

Scriptures: Acts 16; Phil. 1:1-11; 4:14-16; 2 Cor. 5:17; 8:1-4; James 2:14-17.

1. Read Acts 16. In which way was God at work at Philippi?
2. Read Phil. 1:1-11. What is your impression of Paul's relationship with the Philippian Christians?
3. In which way was the church at Philippi a 'mixed bag' of people (what do we know of its membership)? What did they have in common? (v7). Paul spoke of the Philippians with great affection (see v8). Do you find it surprising that God has placed a deep affection in your heart for people quite different from yourself?
4. Steve said: "No one is so good that they don't need Christ; and there is no one so bad that they are somehow disqualified." In which way might this statement both motivate and encourage us?
5. Paul calls the Philippian Christians his partners (see v5). In which way did they partner him in quite practical ways (see Phil. 2:25-30; 4:14-16)? Do you think that James would have commended their actions (see James 2:14-17)?
6. What could be said about the Philippians financial support to Paul? See Phil. 4:14-16 and 2 Cor. 8:1-4. In which way was their giving exceptional; persistent; generous; spontaneous.
7. What did Steve mean when he said that our money can go where we cannot go?
8. In which way are YOU a partner in the gospel? What is stopping you doing what God has laid on your heart?