



RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 27/9/20

Congregational Mission - Partnerships #2 "Kingdom Partnership"

Reading: Philippians 1:3-11 (NLT)

³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵ for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. ⁷ So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favour of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. ¹¹ May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Good News: This is the Good News regarding Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God

Note: You may like to spend a moment or two discussing what this Good News is and why it is good news?

Kingdom Partnership: Partnership in ministry/mission is a well- established principle in God's word. It comes from the Greek word "koinonia" which means "*partnership, a sharer, an associate*" with others in ministry. The Amplified Bible defines partnership as "*sympathetic cooperation and contributions in advancing the good news.*" In other words, Biblical partnership provides on-going prayer and financial support for those in ministry/mission

God has always desired people who can partner with Him in advancing His purpose and plans within the earth. Kingdom reality and impact does not come without the aid of those who have completely joined themselves over to the mission of the Lord. Partnership is God's idea for accomplishing His purpose at all levels.

Given that we accept the partnership involves working with others to accomplish the mission. Please discuss the importance of the following to successful partnerships. All within our Christian context.

- a) All partnership must be "servant-minded". Explain how you. Understand this.
- b) Our partnerships must be "relation-based." Why?
- c) Partnerships must be "commitment-Centred." What does this mean? How does commitment enhance a partnership?
- d) Partnership Effectiveness should have a "Long-Term Focus." Why is this important?

A couple of questions for you to consider.

1. Before entering into a ministry/mission partnership with others, what questions should be asked?
2. Will it matter who gets the "glory" for the success of the partnership?

Finally, in the bible text above and in particular, Phil.1:5,

In what way(s) do you think the Philippians were in kingdom partnership with Paul?

How did that partnership reveal itself to Paul as he was in prison?

Prayer:

As followers of Jesus Christ,
living in this world—
which some seek to control,
but which others view with despair—
we declare with joy and trust:
Our world belongs to God!
From the beginning,
through all the crises of our times,
until his kingdom fully comes,
God keeps covenant forever.
Our world belongs to him!
God is King! Let the earth be glad!
Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!
The Spirit is at work, renewing creation. Praise the Lord!

We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.
As covenant partners,
called to faithful obedience,
and set free for joyful praise,
we offer our hearts and lives
to do God's work in his world.
With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.
And we are confident
that the light which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.

Come, Lord Jesus!
Our world belongs to you.

