

Discovery Group - Gospel Living

Eternal Investments: Gospel

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Philippians 1:1 - 2:30

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- Why is it important for churches to invest in the progress of the gospel? How can this church partner in the gospel?
- What does it mean to conduct yourself 'worthy of the gospel?' What is the role of unity in the progress of the gospel?
- What might it cost, individually and as a church, to be fully invested in the progress of the gospel?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week. Also, take time to consider what gifts you have to offer this local fellowship:

Matthew 28:16-20 Acts 1:4-8 Mark 16:14-20

Eternal Investments: Gospel

If we are to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus, we will make it a priority to invest heavily in the progress of the gospel. The Philippians are a great example of a church that did just that. From the beginning of its existence, they gave themselves to this cause: “*I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*” (1:4-5). As we read the opening chapters of this brief letter, several ideas emerge:

(1) The progress of the gospel was Paul’s great focus and priority, and he expected the churches he planted to follow suit. He was happy that the gospel advanced through his own imprisonment and that it advanced even though those who proclaimed it were trying to hurt him. He commended Timothy because he cared about what matters to Jesus (clearly implied to be the progress of the gospel). Nothing was more important.

(2) The progress of the gospel requires suffering, but it is worth it.

(3) Partnering in the gospel means “conducting [ourselves] in a manner worthy of the gospel” (1:27). The way we live our life must be a witness to Jesus and a force for the spread of the gospel.

(4) Churches are to be unified in their partnership in the gospel, “striving together for the faith of the gospel” (1:27) and “being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind” (2:2). There are two significant aspects of this unity. First, all members of the church agree that the progress of the gospel is their concern and a big part of their purpose. They are in agreement that reaching lost people for Jesus is a top priority. Secondly, their unity itself is a witness of Jesus’ presence and love. The way we get along with, care for, honor, serve, and love others in our fellowship are part of how we invest in the progress of the gospel. In order to achieve this kind of powerful unity, we must each be given to radical humility, following the example of Jesus (2:1-8).

(5) Partnering in the gospel includes prayer (1:9-11, 19).

(6) Investing in the progress of the gospel means giving financially (2:25 & 4:10-20).

(7) Investing in the progress of the gospel means sending people from our churches to actively take part in mission work, even at great risk (2:25, 30).

Investing in the gospel is a corporate responsibility. Not everyone is called to be a Paul or an Epaphroditus (though some are) - but everyone does play a part. As a church, we are to invest deeply in this good work; giving ourselves to living “worthy,” being willing to suffer and sacrifice, fighting for unity, praying, sending, and giving. Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus, and of course Jesus Himself were all willing to give their lives for the gospel. What about us?