

December 13, 2006

Partnership.

Phil.1:3-5, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now."

The Holy Spirit specifically sent Paul to Philippi to preach the gospel. (Acts 16:9-10). The first convert was Lydia. Lydia was a Gentile worshiper of God like Cornelius. (Acts 10). She was a business woman and she insisted that Paul and his associates stay in her house. Vs.40 seems to indicate that the Philippian church met in her house.

The word "participation" is the Greek *koinonia* which means "fellowship or partnership". How did the Philippians partner with Paul in the gospel? Firstly, we must note that their partnership was gospel-centered. They shared with Paul in the great task of "striving together for the faith of the gospel." (1:27). Secondly, they shared with Paul in suffering for their faith (1:29). Thirdly, they shared with Paul through praying for him (1:19).

Fourthly, the Philippians' partnership was also material. This partnership began with Lydia. (Acts 16:15). Paul testified that this partnership of financially supporting him was not a one shot event. This partnership was "from the first day until now." Paul is in prison and he is visited by Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus' mission was two-

fold : (1) to give Paul the financial gift (4:18); (2) to minister to Paul (2:25).

The Philippians partnered with Paul in the gospel. They will also partner with Paul in that glorious day when the Lord Jesus will reward His servants for their faithful service.