

July 2, 2017
ADVANCING GOD'S GOSPEL
Philippians 1:3-7

Introduction:

- What remarkable sites were there in the ancient world?
 1. Rome – 80 acre Coliseum
 2. Olympia – 40 foot statue of Zeus _____
 3. Ephesus – temple of Diana
 4. Egypt – the pyramids
 5. Jerusalem – Herod's temple
- The apostle Paul became a world traveler and wrote _____ letters
 1. Mentions nothing about the scenery
 2. The most spectacular site to him was _____ lives due to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 3. Every church plant was a mission strategy center of advancing the gospel (Matt 28:18-20)
- How can we as a church group advance the gospel effectively?

Through Constant Contribution (4,5,7)

- Paul's prayer life is filled with joy _____ when praying for them
 1. Ten years earlier the Philippian church was planted (Acts 16)
 - a. The missionaries – Paul, Titus _____, and Silas
 - b. Those who accepted the gospel – Lydia and her household, the joy _____ and his household.
 2. Paul left just weeks later and they participated with him in the giving _____ (KJV – fellowship; NAS – participation; NIV – partnership)
 - a. *From the first _____ day* (verse 5 - From 4:15 we know this to be a financial contribution)
 - b. *Until now* – The church continued supporting Paul
- How could the Philippian church support Paul when he was in prison?
 1. Paul continued to do _____ and establish the gospel – he witnessed to the guards
 2. They gave him food _____ and clothing since prisoners had to depend upon friends and family for their needs.
- Lighthouse Baptist Church has an ongoing mission emphasis
 1. Winter – Harvest _____ missions
 2. Spring – Awakening _____ missions
 3. Summer – Labor _____ missions
 4. Fall – Spirit _____ missions
 5. November, December – Fruit _____ missions

Through Careful Contribution (4:15)

- Only the Philippian church supported _____ Paul when he left that region.
 - Long-distance communication was so _____ - very difficult in developing a strategy of cooperation among churches
 - Paul had to resort to _____ making.

- Today, there are two common strategies of cooperation
 - A local church supports s_____ missionaries
 - a. Disadvantage - the missionary has to leave the field for months in order to r_____ support
 - b. Advantage - the missionary gives p_____ reports to supporting churches
 - Local churches pool resources to support s_____ missionaries (strategy of Southern Baptists)
 - a. Advantage - the missionary stays on the field
 - b. Disadvantage – the personal touch is lost
 - Some churches do a combination of the two

- The advancement of the gospel in the last 40 years or so

1974 over 60% of the world's population unreached

Today 40% of the world's population unreached

Christian population in Africa is growing dramatically and is expected to exceed the U.S. Christian population

Massive conversions continue in Brazil and China

Visions of Christ prevalent only among Moslem populations

God is working – let's join Him in His work!