

February 28, 2021  
Philippians 1:3-14

## Partners in the Gospel

### I. Introduction

- Paul gives thanks for the church in Philippi because they are partners with him in the Gospel. (vs. 5)
- That partnership can be an example for our church.

### II. An interlude

- The mission of the doctor as healer ... **and** as a partner in healing.
- *See one. Do one. Teach one.*
- An educational technique.
- Expanding the community of competence, multiplying the numbers of partners in healing

### III. Paul's mission of spreading the gospel.

- "I thank my God every time I remember you ... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
- The first thing Paul did when he went to Philippi was to enlist partners in the mission of spreading the gospel.
- The mission of the apostle as messenger of the gospel ... **and** as a partner in spreading the gospel.

### IV. The process of spreading the gospel

1. *Seeing*—hearing the gospel
2. *Doing*—living the gospel, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice." (4:9)
3. *Teaching*—working together to spread the gospel, "conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ ... contending as one for the faith of the gospel." (1:27) ["conduct" from Greek πολιτευσθε, "to take active part in the affairs of a state—to be a citizen"]

### V. The distortions of the process

- A. If you only hear the gospel but don't live it or spread it, it is worthless.
- B. If you only hear the gospel and live it but don't spread it, then its effect is limited, and it may die with you. (And spreading the gospel is actually part of living the gospel.)

C. If you only receive the gospel and pass it on but don't live it, then you drain the gospel of all meaning.

VI. Irrigating a field as a metaphor for the spreading of the gospel.

- The source of the water
- The water spreads out
- The field soaks it up