



DEVOTION: May 31, 2020

Go Therefore
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"...because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now."
PHILIPPIANS 1:5

As you follow the journeys of Paul through the book of Acts, you will find that he is rarely alone. It is clear to see that Paul valued partnerships in the Gospel. He valued partnerships with individuals as well as churches. It was these partnerships that encouraged and empowered Paul to continue all of the missionary work that we now know him for. Partnerships for Paul included everything from assistants to those who would have equal status to his own. For example, Paul calls Timothy "a servant of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:1) and "co-worker" (1 Thess. 3:2; Rom. 16:21). Paul tells the Corinthians that Titus is "my brother" (2 Cor. 2:13) and "my partner *and* co-worker for you" (2 Cor. 8:23). To emphasize the point that others status is equal to his own, he gives the title "*partner*" to Philemon (Phlm. 17). He then asks Philemon to receive Onesimus, a former servant, as a brother and a partner. There is quite a distinction between someone who helps you accomplish your task and someone who co-labors with you to accomplish a greater task (2 Cor. 1:24; 3 John 1:8). We have all been commissioned to a greater task than we can do alone. Who do you partner with in the Gospel? Globally? Regionally? Locally? Individually? Let us "go therefore," but also let us "go together."



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