



Partners *in the* Gospel

A SERIES IN PHILIPPIANS



WORSHIP

COMMUNITY

MISSION

TERM 1, 2024
DNA BOOKLET



TERM OVERVIEW

I fondly remember Thursday nights at our home in Brisbane. As I look back, I picture on one couch the doctor, the Malaysian music student and the guy who's just come out of drug rehab. On the other couch there's the midwife, the Brazilian nightclub worker and the philosopher. On the floor, there's the graffiti artist and the Dutch tradie. Finally, on a chair, you've got the lovely older woman who (believe it or not) has a wooden leg and lives on a boat. Here they are gathering together each week and sharing a meal!



“ **James Ritchie**
Preaching and Mission Pastor ”

What brought such a random, diverse group of people together? Well, it was the gospel - the good news about Jesus. They were united by the gospel, they shared in the joy of being saved by the gospel, and they were partners together in the gospel mission.

For us this term we'll look at Acts 16, Philippians 1-4 and a 3-week Core Values series. My hope is that, as we soak up God's word, we are renewed and encouraged in our gospel unity, gospel joy and gospel partnership.





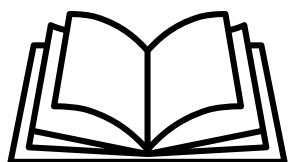
HOW TO BE GROWING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AS YOU STUDY GOD'S WORD...

IN COMMUNITY



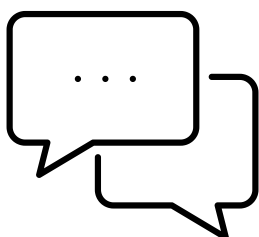
It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: "word to life" and "life to word".

WORD TO LIFE



When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!

LIFE TO WORD



The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from "word to life", the better we'll get at moving from "life to word" and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!



SAVE THE DATE

1-1 Bible Reading

EQUIP

With James Ritchie
Tuesday, March 5 - 7:30pm @ Park Ave

EASTER 2024

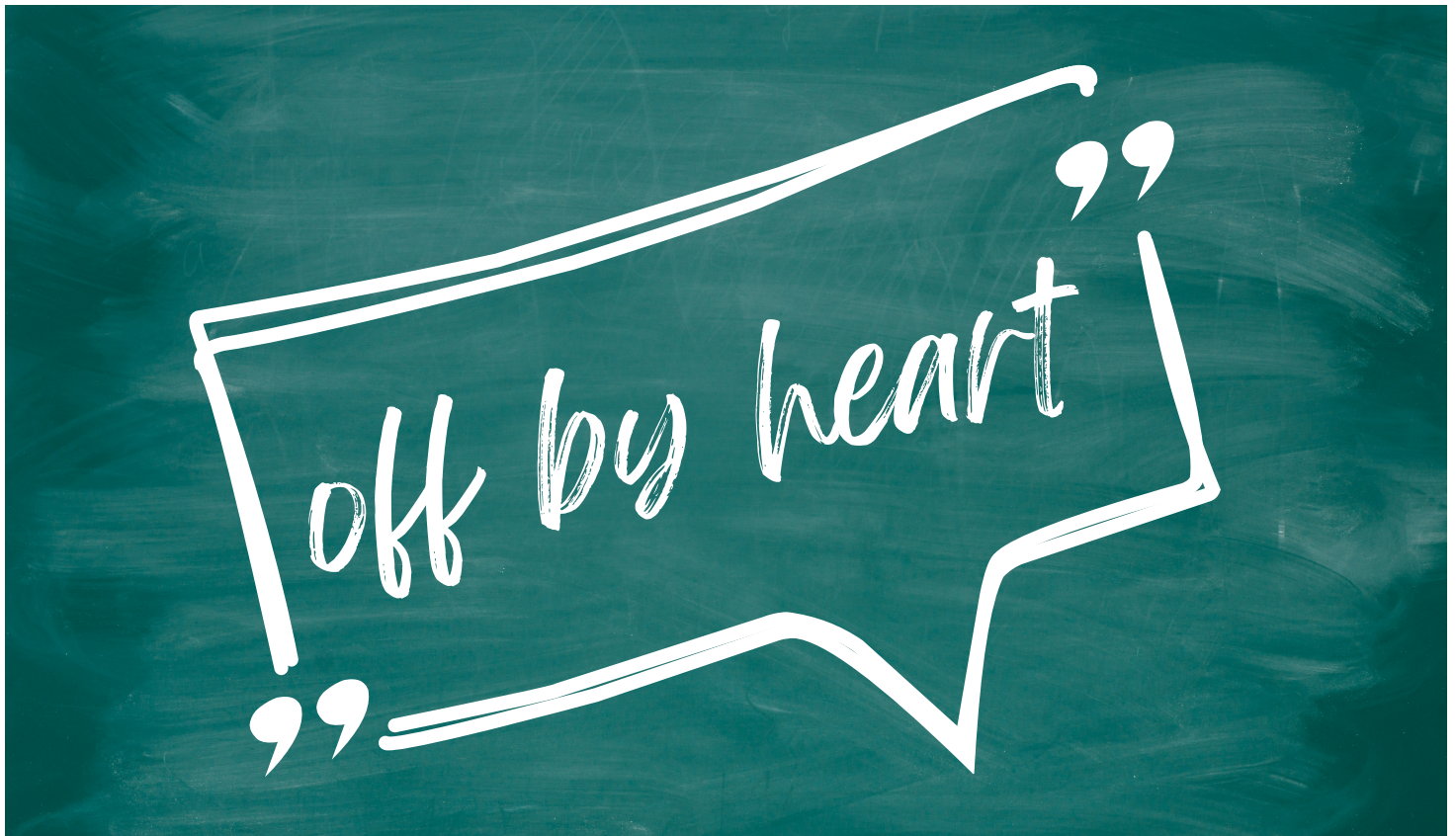
Finding Hope in Chaos

GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 29

9:30am - Lismore High

EASTER SUNDAY - MARCH 31

9:30am and 6pm - Lismore High



Deuteronomy 11:18

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads."

Each term this year we'll have the opportunity to learn part of the scriptures we're studying 'off by heart'.

In Term 1, there'll be 3 choices so you can attempt:

- *The mini* - Philippians 3:8
- *The middy* - Philippians 3:7-11
- *The maxi* - Philippians 3:4b-14

As we see in Deuteronomy 11, ultimately the goal is that we *take to heart* the words we've learnt *off by heart*.

As a bonus there's also some Loving Local gift cards to be won to spend at participating stores in Lismore (\$10 for the mini, \$25 for the middy and \$50 for the maxi). To enter, memorise the verse/s then send a video of yourself saying them to office@scpc.org.au

A winner will be randomly selected from each category and announced on Sunday 10th of March. Some videos may be shown in our Sunday gatherings or on our socials.

LIST OF STUDIES

WEEK	TITLE	PASSAGE
1	PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL	Acts 16
2	GOSPEL-CENTRED RELATIONSHIPS	Philippians 1
3	ALL FOR CHRIST	Philippians 1
4	THE GOSPEL MINDSET	Philippians 2
5	NO STUDY	Equip
6	THE GOSPEL IN ALL OF LIFE	Philippians 4
7	WORSHIP	Various
8	COMMUNITY	Various
9	NO STUDY	Easter
10	MISSION	Various

01

PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

What different churches have you been part of and what do you know about how they began?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



Acts 16:11-40

The three key people we meet in Philippi are Lydia, the slave girl and the jailor. Let's investigate them and their stories a little more...

1. Lydia

- What do we know about her and her circumstances before meeting Paul?
- What did God do?
- How did she respond? (v15, 40)

2. The slave girl

- What do we know about her and her circumstances?

- What did God do?

- How might she have responded?

3. The jailor

- What do we know about him and his circumstances?

- What did God do?

- How did he respond? (v27-34)

4. In verse 40 these new believers gather together in Lydia's house to hear from Paul before he leaves. From the whole story, what do we learn about the church in Philippi?

5. What do we learn about God's church in general?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

6. God has brought us together and given us a mission. What role does God have for you to play in the growth of the gospel through our church family? Are there opportunities you're missing, or opportunities you could take hold of, more fully?



COMING UP

Feb 25 | AGM

March 5 | EQUIP

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

What sort of person do you most naturally make friends with?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

The following questions are a blend of 'D' and 'NA'...



Philippians 1:1-11

1. a) What does Paul mean by 'partnership in the gospel'? Why does it bring him joy?

b) Do we have a gospel partnership with one another? Is it the same or different? How so?

2. a) What is Paul saying in verse 6?

b) What peace and comfort does it bring you?

3. a) How would you describe Paul's attitude to the Philippians from v7-8?

b) Could you (and should you) speak this way about other believers?

4. a) What are the priorities of Paul's prayer? (v9-11)

b) As you reflect on his priorities, are there ways it provides a helpful corrective to your own priorities in prayer?

5. As a whole, what do we learn about gospel-shaped relationships from these verses?



COMING UP

Feb 25 | AGM

March 5 | EQUIP

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

What do people want most in life? What do they want most in death?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



Philippians 1:12-30

1. What is Paul's attitude to being 'in chains'? (1:12-14)

2. Look at 1:15-18

a) Why does Paul rejoice?

b) Do motives matter in proclaiming Christ?

3. If he refuses to stop preaching Christ there is the possibility that Paul may face death. What's most important to him? (1:20)
Why do you think he feels that way?

4. What does 'to live is Christ and to die is gain' mean? (Clues in 1:22-26)

5. What does it mean to 'conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel'? (Clues in 1:27-30 and 2:3-5)

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

6. It's worth noting that living in this Christ-honouring manner is not something we do alone but 'strive together' in (1:27). Why is this important? How can your Gospel Community encourage and enable one another to live lives worthy of the gospel?

7. Is it possible for you to say 'to live is Christ and to die is gain'? If you'd like to see more of this attitude in your life what can you do?



COMING UP

Feb 25 | AGM

March 5 | EQUIP

04

THE GOSPEL MINDSET

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

What is difficult about living like Jesus? What is good about it?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



Philippians 2:1-30

1. How would you define:

a) Selfish ambition?

b) Vain conceit?

2. What does it look like to have a mindset where we value others above ourselves? (v3-4)

3. How might this attitude be compelling to the world around us (v15-16)?

4. What steps did Jesus take to seek our interest? (v6-8)

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

5. Why do we need to stop and look at Jesus when we feel overwhelmed and when we act selfishly?

6. What lived-out example of Christ's mindset do we see in v19-30? How is that meant to be an encouragement to the Philippians and to us?

7. Do you need to be more ambitious in your pursuit of humility and service of others?

8. What stops you from embracing Christ's mindset more? What can you pray about in response to that?



COMING UP

March 5 | EQUIP

06

THE GOSPEL IN ALL OF LIFE

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

Is there such a thing as a 'Sunday Christian'?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



Philippians 4:1-23

1. What does Paul plead for in verses 2-3? Why is this important to him? (See also 1:5, 1:7, 1:27-28, 2:1-2)
2. What role do we play in bringing unity in our own Christian relationships? What is (and what isn't) our role in fostering unity in relationships between other Christians (note the 'true companion' in 4:3)
3. What does it mean to 'rejoice in the Lord always'?

4. Look over all the times Paul mentions joy in Philippians [1]...

REFERENCE	PAUL...
Phil 1:4	... prays with joy
Phil 1:18	... rejoices that Christ is proclaimed
Phil 1:25	... will remain living on earth, for the Philippians' joy in the faith
Phil 2:2	... asks the Philippians to complete his joy
Phil 2:17-18	... is glad and rejoices with the Philippians
Phil 2:28	... sends Epaphroditus, that the Philippians might rejoice
Phil 2:29	... tells the Philippians to receive Epaphroditus with joy
Phil 3:1	... tells the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord
Phil 4:1	... tells the Philippians they are his joy
Phil 4:4	... tells the Philippians twice to rejoice in the Lord
Phil 4:10	... rejoiced in the Lord at the Philippians' concern for him

How would you sum up what he says about Christian joy?

[1] <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/chart-50-01/>

Nurture & Apply: the “NA” in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God’s word...

5. Ironically, Philippians 4:6-7 is often a source of anxiety for Christians. Why is that? How is Paul actually encouraging us to respond when we are anxious?

6. Paul says ‘I’ve learned to be content... whether in plenty or in want’. Why does he mention both these circumstances (not just times of want/lack)? What are you most likely to be discontent about?

7. How did the Philippians partner with Paul in verses 14-19? Is financial generosity a vital part of all gospel partnership?



COMING UP

March 29 | GOOD FRIDAY

March 31 | EASTER SUNDAY



This year the theme is...



Over the year we're aiming to emphasise what our heart beats for as a church. As part of that we're doing a three-part series on our church's mission and core values. The goal of this series is to highlight the things that are central to our church's ministry.

Of course, we'll always have some differences, but we'd love everyone in our church to be on the same page about these core things.

OUR MISSION

Growing followers of Jesus



CORE VALUES - WORSHIP

Read Mark 10:45, Luke 19:10, Matthew 28:18-20 and Colossians 1:28

What is Jesus' first priority:

- For himself?
- For his followers?

What are some (false) alternatives that a church, or church members, could have as their first priority in ministry? (Note: they may be good things that have taken first place)...

We love that God first reveals himself to this world through His word, the Bible.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

How is the bible described here? What is it sufficient for?

How is the bible to shape Timothy's ministry? How should it shape ours?

We love that God first loved us by giving us his Son.

Read 1 John 4:9-11, Ephesians 2:4-5, 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

Why is the message of these verses:

- So precious?
- So vital?

We love that we have many faithful pastors, preachers and leaders who love to teach God's word.

Read Ephesians 4:11-13, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Timothy 4:12-16

Why has Christ given apostles, pastors, teachers and many other leaders to the church?

What attitude should leaders have? What attitude should we seek to have to our leaders?

As you pray, take some time to pray for our church family - that God would be working through us to grow followers of Jesus, and that he would also be growing our love for him and his gospel message.



COMING UP

March 29 | GOOD FRIDAY

March 31 | EASTER SUNDAY

STUDY 07 - VERSES

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Colossians 1:28

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15** and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **17** so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: **2** Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

1 John 4:9-11

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

STUDY 07 - VERSES cont.

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

1 Corinthians 1:17-18

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. **18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Hebrews 13:17

1 Timothy 4:12-16

12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. **13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. **14** Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. **16** Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

08

CORE VALUES - COMMUNITY

KICK-OFF

Why do you think people like the idea of community?

If someone said, *'I can be solo Christian, I don't need the Church'* how would you answer them?

We love that we can express our love for God by loving our extended church family in a few ways.

We love that we can express our love for God by loving our Gospel Communities in many ways.

We love that by our love for each other the world will know that we are His disciples.

Read Acts 2:42-47

What are some of the things this community devoted itself to?

What other features defined the life of the believers?

What was the effect of the believers' common life in verse 47?

Read John 13:34-35, 1 Timothy 3:15 and Hebrews 10:19-25 and explore the implications for Christian community...

Why does community desperately need the gospel?

Is the gospel absent from your Gospel Community? Why? Why not?

Read Bonhoeffer's startling quote and discuss if you have been guilty of this heartache in your Gospel Community...

"Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest and sacrificial".

Who from the community around you, could you invite into your Gospel Community, to discover the gospel?

Now spend some time praying about those precious lives.



COMING UP

March 29 | GOOD FRIDAY

March 31 | EASTER SUNDAY

STUDY 08 - VERSES

Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1 Timothy 3:15

... if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Hebrews 10:19-25

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

KICK-OFF

Should reaching the lost be the most urgent, critical thing on a church's agenda?

If not, why not? If so, why isn't it this way more often?

We love that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

We love that we can share God's heart for the world by seeking many to be saved.

Read John 3:16-21, Romans 5:8-10, Romans 10:15

What is the world like?

How would you describe God's heart for the world? How is that to be reflected in our own lives?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-12 and Matthew 5:14-16

As Christians living 'among the pagans' (or 'in the world') what should our attitude and approach be?

Make note of all the corporate (rather than just individual) language that is used across these passages? Why is that important to see?

We love that the Holy Spirit is the agent by which lives are opened to the love of God.

Read Acts 1:8 and Ezekiel 36:26-27

As we share the good news to the ends of earth, what is our role and what is the spirit's role? How can this be a huge comfort to us and motivation for us?

What are some things that distract us from reaching the lost?

What would it look like for you turn up the 'mission heat':

- In your life?
- In your Gospel Community?

WRAP UP

Across the past three weeks, we've looked at our core values and aimed to highlight what our heart beats for as a church family. Quickly revise the mission and core values in the two previous studies then look below at some of the possible responses to the series. Circle all that apply to you and then discuss together.

- *I'm on board!*
- *I like the idea but I'm too tired and busy.*
- *I have a different set of values.*
- *I'm excited and all in!*
- *It's good but difficult.*
- *I'm not on board.*
- *My life is hard, yet I'm committed to our shared gospel mission.*
- *Other...*

STUDY 10 - VERSES

John 3:16-21

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. **19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Romans 5:8-10

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! **10** For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Romans 10:15

And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

1 Peter 2:9-12

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

STUDY 10 - VERSES cont.

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Ezekiel 36:26-27

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

01

NOTES

PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

02

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GOSPEL-CENTRED RELATIONSHIPS

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ALL FOR CHRIST

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MISSION



SOUTHERN CROSS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2024