Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – October 21, 2018

Compassion

**A**ction

**R**elationship

**E**ncouragement

***Empowering Our Messengers:***

***Caring For Those We Send***

Philippians 4:10-20

10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. 14

Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

What can we learn about sustaining those we send

from one first century church?

CARE-full people and churches. . .

 Are sources of great joy for the sent ones. v. 10a

 Are looking for opportunities to help the sent ones. v. 10b

 Are close to the hearts of the sent ones. v. 11

 Are in line to learn from the sent ones. vv. 12, 13

 Are encouraged by the sent ones. v. 14

 Are rare. v. 15

 Are blessed for their consistent compassion. vv. 16, 17

 Are empowering the sent ones and their ministries. v. 18a

 Are pleasing to God. v. 18b

 Are richly rewarded by God. v. 19

***Questions for Growth Groups***

How many missionaries do you know by name or by sight? What can you tell us about the missionaries you know? How do you pray for them?

Why do you think some professing Christians have little interest in spreading the gospel to the nations? What do you think the church’s purpose is?

What are some ways in which we might better know our missionaries and how to help and pray for them and their children? What are some ways in which we can help our children to be “Glocal” in their attitudes and actions?