Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – March 17, 2019

**C**ompassion

**A**ction

**R**elationship

 **E**ncouragement

***Empowering Our Messengers:***

***Caring For Those We Send***

Philippians 4:10-20

The Apostle Paul had a unique relationship with a church in a city in what we now call northern Greece. He wants to thank them for their kindness, and so composed this little “thank you note” which shows us how we, too, can serve those we send. They could not have known how their simple, commonsense care would impact eternity: Works of love create a legacy of worship.

Let’s call these folks. . .

CARE-full people and churches.

***What they do. . .***

 They have concern, show concern, renew concern (v. 10b)

 They seek opportunities to help, and continue to help (v. 10 b)

 They love radically (their love is rare, their giving lavish) (v. 15)

***How they make a difference. .*** .

 They sustain and empower the sent one (vv. 10, 18)

 They create joy in the sent one (v. 10a)

 They share in the heart of the sent one (vv. 12, 13)

***How they benefit. . .***

 They share in the sent one’s joy (v. 10)

 They are blessed by God (v. 19)

 They are to be rewarded by God (v. 17)

***How they glorify God. . .***

 They bear fruit for God (v. 17)

 They please God (v. 18c)

 They participate in the heart of God, the gospel (v. 15)

***How would Paul have fared without these people?***

***Where would the gospel go without such people?***

***Will you be one of these people?***

***Questions for Growth Groups***

Have you ever had a missionary in your home? Do you know a missionary or missionary family well? How do you stay current in praying for them?

Why do you think many church goers have little interest in spreading the gospel to the nations? What might they 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?

List some practical things that you can begin doing in order to partner actively with one of our missionaries. How can our church help you in your efforts?