

Philippians 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

Analysis

For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now (ἐπὶ τῇ κοινωνίᾳ ὑμῶν εἰς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον, *epi tē koinōnia hymōn eis to euangelion*)—The noun *koinōnia* ("fellowship, partnership, participation") signifies active sharing in gospel advance, not mere social camaraderie. The preposition *eis* ("in, into, for") suggests purpose or sphere: partnership toward or for the sake of the gospel.

This fellowship was concrete: financial support (4:15-16), prayer support (1:19), and shared suffering (1:30). **From the first day until now** (ἀπὸ τῆς πρώτης ἡμέρας ἄχρι τοῦ νῦν, *apo tēs prōtēs hēmeras achri tou nyn*) marks decade-plus faithfulness. Philippi partnered with Paul when no other church did (4:15), sending aid to Thessalonica, Corinth, and now Rome. Their consistency proved gospel-partnership genuine.

Historical Context

The 'first day' was around AD 49-50 when Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke arrived in Philippi (Acts 16:11-40). Lydia, a businesswoman, opened her home; a slave girl was delivered; a jailer's household converted. By AD 60-62 (this letter's date), Philippi had supported Paul's mission for over a decade—rare loyalty in the ancient world's patron-client culture.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What gospel-partnerships have you maintained faithfully 'from the first day until now'?
2. How is your 'fellowship' in the gospel more than attendance—involving active sacrifice and support?
3. Which missionaries or ministries could you partner with consistently as Philippi did with Paul?

Interlinear Text

ἐπὶ	τῇ	κοινωνίᾳ	ὑμῶν	εἰς	τὸ	εὐαγγέλιον	ἀπὸ	πρώτης
For	G3588	fellowship	your	in	G3588	the gospel	from	the first
G1909		G2842	G5216	G1519		G2098	G575	G4413
ἡμέρας	ἄχρι	τοῦ	νῦν					
day	until	G3588	now					
G2250	G891		G3568					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 3:14 (Parallel theme): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Philippians 1:7 (Parallel theme): Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

Philemon 1:17 (Parallel theme): If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.