

Life Group Homework

EXPERIENCING JOY NO MATTER WHAT COMES – Philippians 1:12-26

Getting Started:

1. As a Christian, we can clearly say that we have great joy in the advancement of the gospel; but how would our joy in the gospel rank with the other joys in our lives? Are there things we find more joy in than the advancement of the gospel?
2. Does the joy that we find in Christ become more genuine and more powerful the more we live for the advancement of the gospel? Why or why not?

Digging In:

1. What does it mean for the gospel to be advanced (vs. 12)? Is it simply referring to people getting saved or is there more to it than that? (See Ephesians 3:8-10 and 2 Corinthians 4:15-18 to help your discussion.)
2. Why would Paul's imprisonment cause others to be more bold in speaking the word without fear (vs. 14)? Why didn't the fear of being arrested make them more timid?

3. How is Paul able to rejoice when those who are envious of him and seeking to become more important than him—are actually having success in their ministries? Is this a common trait among pastors and ministry leaders today?

4. While it was Paul's eager expectation and hope in vs. 20 that he would not be ashamed, what shame might he have come under in his circumstances? (See Romans 5:3-5)

5. Read verse 21 carefully. What does Paul mean when he says that, "to live is Christ"? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and Galatians 2:20)

6. Is death truly gain and is it truly better **by far** to depart and be with Christ? How so?

7. Paul starts verse 25 with "Convinced of this..." What is he convinced of?

8. What does Paul's confidence that he will remain and the reasons he gives for that confidence tell us about Paul's understanding of God's decision making. (i.e.; What does Paul think God's motives would be for letting him remain?)

Living It Out:

1. Are there areas of your life that don't play any part in the advancement of the gospel?
2. Is the advancement of the gospel a major part of your life or a minor part?
3. What would look different if you were using as much of your life to further the gospel as possible?