

Philippians: *Finding Joy Right Where You Are!*

Key Scriptures

Phil. 1:18b-26 Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Key Point

Jesus is the source of joy!

For me, to live is Christ!
To die is gain!

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- When you think about what is next in life, what are you looking forward to the most?
- Do you have issues when someone uses bad grammar to describe how good something is . . . like saying “that’s much more good!”?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What is Paul’s overriding attitude toward his uncertain future (v. 21)? What does he mean?
- Kyle said “Your progress in your faith, as well as your joy are completely contingent on whether or not Jesus Christ is your primary singular passion.” Do you think this is true? Why or why not?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- “For me, to live is _____ . Given your priorities and schedule this week, how would you honestly fill in the blank? What would change if you wrote “Christ”?
- What difference has your personal faith in Jesus Christ made in your attitude toward death and dying? In your attitude toward suffering?
- Kyle mentioned something called “the believers indecision.” Can you genuinely say “to die is gain?” Do you feel torn like Paul was, whether to remain here to advance others, or to depart and be with Christ?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- What are the things that have happened recently that you can rejoice in? Take some time to praise God and thank Him.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- If you have not read through Philippians, it does not take long. This week take some time to read ahead and mark out any passages you may want to commit to memory.