

Philippians 1:2-18 Discussion Guide

General Discussion Questions:

- What statement or illustration from the message stuck out to you and why?
- What attributes of God were on display in the passage?
- What encouraged you?
- What point of action/application did you walk away with?

Topics for Discussion:

- The Gospel - Evangelism
- Envy - Unity
- Joy in trial

Review:

"Joy is the flag flying high above the castle of the heart, announcing that the King is in residence there."

- JOY IN TRIALS (vv. 12-14)
- JOY IN THE GOSPEL (vv. 15-18)

Discussion Questions:

? - what do you think about the idea that joy is not optional?

- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/joy-is-not-optional>

? - What was Paul's joy centered on?

? – What marvelous effect did Paul's ministry have on the church in Rome ([Phil. 1:14](#))?

? - *"The advancement of the gospel can actually benefit from difficult personal circumstances."*

- How do you see this in Paul's circumstances
- How have you seen this in the lives of fellow believers?

? - How can Christians encourage other believers? In what ways do they sometimes discourage them?

? – Acts 4:29, Eph. 6:19 – Do we pray this prayer?

Do you agree with this statement? *If love for the lost, love for God and a desire to obey Christ do not motivate you to evangelize, you may have a greater fear of man than of God.* If this is true of you, what can you do to change?

? – *"How you respond to other people's troubles and blessings reveals a great deal about your true level of spiritual maturity."*¹ So, ask yourself:

- When you see other people blessed are you able to truly rejoice with them?
- When someone steps into the blessing I've been longing for in my own life, am I elated for that person, or does it make me turn green with envy?
- Does it thrill you to know that other people are moving upward in life? Especially when people are having success in ministry – are you envious or are you JOYOUS because the Gospel is going forth and ministry is taking place!?
- Are you looking for people to train up and invest in or do you hoard the ministry and the glory for yourself?

¹ Rick Renner, [Sparkling Gems from the Greek: 365 Greek Word Studies for Every Day of the Year to Sharpen Your Understanding of God's Word](#) (n.p.: Wordsearch, 2008), 682–683.