

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Growing for Glory*Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 1:8-11**REVIEW**

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the gospel births communal joy that results in the advance of the gospel to the lost. As we partner together in the gospel, the result is **joy made complete**.

Verses 6-7 focus on Paul's confidence in God to complete the work of salvation he began in the Philippian believers. The Philippian's church joyful obedience of standing by Paul in the midst of hardships shows they genuinely believe the gospel for what it is, not simply for what they can get out of it.

- Paul is confident the Lord will complete what he began until Christ returns (v. 6)
- Paul rejoices in the camaraderie of the gospel partnership – his affections for the Philippian church are deep (v. 7a)
- The Philippian church confirms their faith by revealing gospel works in the midst of difficult circumstances (v. 7b)

APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 1:6-7

Consider practical ways to apply the text of Scripture. Think about implications at the individual and corporate level remembering God's word shapes our beliefs and our behaviors.

1. Read Philippians 1.
2. Focusing on verses 6-7, compare your attitude and hope to that of Paul's. Where is it similar or different? Why?
3. How does the Philippian's gospel partnership encourage Paul in the midst of difficulties? How do you think Paul's gospel confidence impacted the Philippian church?
 - a. From Paul's side, how might our "confirmation" of the gospel encourage brothers and sisters around us who are going through hardships?
 - b. From the church's side, how have you been encouraged by watching others go through hardships with gospel confidence?

STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 1:8-11

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Re-read 1:8-11.

2. What does it mean for Paul to “yearn” for the Philippian church with “the affection of Christ Jesus?” How should this impact the way we relate to and think about our fellow church members and other gospel partners?
3. In verses 9-11 we see what Paul is praying for the Philippian church. How does Paul’s prayer compare with the content of our prayers? What is absent from Paul’s prayer?
4. Paul prays the love of the Philippians “may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment.” What is true love? Why are knowledge and discernment a necessary component of true love? How does this contrast with more popular ideas of love?
5. In verse 10, Paul prays this love-laced wisdom will result the Philippian church “approv[ing] what is excellent” which itself will bring about the church being “pure and blameless.” What does this mean? Why is moral discernment a necessary part of Christian love?
6. Finally, Paul prays that the Philippians will be “filled with the fruit of righteousness.” What does he mean by this phrase? How might this work itself out at Restoration Church?
7. The ultimate end of Paul’s prayer is “to the glory and praise of God.” Why is this always important to keep in front of us?

8. General Bible study questions:
 - a. What do these verses tell us about the character of God?
 - b. What do these verses tell us about tell us about ourselves?
 - c. How does this passage point us to and help us delight in Jesus Christ?
 - d. What’s one way this passage challenges or encourages a specific belief or behavior?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other help apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Do you find joy in the advancement of the gospel? Praise God where that is the case. If not, what might be hindering you from doing so?