

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**The Joy of Proclamation***Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 1:15-18

## 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**.

In verses 12-14, Paul transitions from his introductory remarks and begins to provide an update. These verses show one of the first things Paul wants the Philippians to know is that their gospel partnership is not in vain. Even though he is in prison, the gospel continues to go forth to unbelievers and in/through believers.

## APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14

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 12-14, how do you see Paul's priority of gospel advancement over personal comfort? Why do you think Paul was able to live this way?
3. What are some ways we're tempted to pursue personal comfort over gospel advancement? Practically speaking, how do we ensure gospel priority in our lives?
4. Why do you think Paul's specific circumstance made the "Imperial guard and all the rest" have a willingness to listen to the gospel? How do this manifest itself in your own life?
5. How does God use our suffering and struggles to sanctify fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? What does this tell us about the importance of community?
6. Verse 14 shows us that confidence in Christ results in boldness for Christ. Discuss why confidence in Christ is a better motivator for telling others about Jesus rather than guilt. Why are we tempted to functionally compromise our confidence in Christ?
7. Verse 14 shows us that boldness for Christ results in speaking the word of God (e.g. the gospel). Why is it necessary to speak gospel words and not just do good deeds? What are some excuses and/or barriers to speaking explicitly about Jesus?

## STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14

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 1:15-18.
2. What connections do you see between these verses and verses 12-14?

**There seems to be a clear connection between “speaking the word” in verse 12 and the repetition of preaching/proclaiming Christ in verses 15-18 (see v. 15, 17, 18).**

3. What appears to be the situation Paul is describing in these verses?
  4. Who is preaching from envy and rivalry and selfish ambition? What does that mean? What might this look like today?
  5. Who is preaching from good will and love? What does that mean? What might this look like today?
  6. What does it mean that Paul is “put here for the defense of the gospel?”  
**On the surface these verses are a bit confusing. Why is Paul rejoicing that some are preaching with less than pure motives? And who is it that’s preaching with this motivation? It appears that both those who preach with ill motives and those with good will are the brothers mentioned from verse 12. Some hold that they are false teachers, but Paul would hardly celebrate false teaching – he has tough things to say about false teachers in other places (cf. Gal. 1; Eph. 4:14; 1 Tim. 6:3; 2 Tim. 2:15, etc.). It seems more likely that these were other Christians who preached a generally sound gospel but were personally at odds with Paul and/or their desire was not primarily to see Christ exalted.**
  7. What do you notice about Paul’s mindset/mood in these verses? How does this encourage, convict or challenge you?
  8. What do you think it looks like for Paul to rejoice in the midst of this circumstance? How does this inform our rejoicing?  
**Living out his own prayer for agape love, which aims for the good of others and the glories of Christ, Paul is not concerned about his own self-interest. Even if it causes him harm, Paul will rejoice when Christ is proclaimed and the gospel is progressing.**
- 9.
10. General Bible study questions:
    - a. What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - b. What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - c. How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - d. How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

## 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:** Where are you pursuing personal comfort over gospel advancement? How have you seen the Spirit help you crucify personal comfort for the sake of making Jesus known?