

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

To Live Is Christ, to Die Is Gain
Joy Made Complete | Philippians 1:18b-26

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 15-18a, Paul exemplifies for the Philippian church what it looks like to have self-forgetfulness in the face of Christ's preeminence.

APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 1:15-18

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. What does Paul's example in verses 15-18 communicate to the Philippian church? How does this teaching fit into the rest of the book?
3. What are some specific ways we be tempted to proclaim Christ with unloving motives?
4. How do we get to a place where we are like Paul, willing to have our own names tarnished if it meant lifting up the name of Christ?
5. In what way does living for the proclamation of Christ give greater joy than living for the proclamation of our own names?

STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 1:18B-26

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 1:18b-26.
2. What repeated themes/ideas do you see present in these verses? How are these ideas connected to the rest of Philippians?
Rejoicing/joy bookends this passage as does the exaltation of Christ. As Paul wrestles through his desire to die and see Christ or remain alive and serve the Philippians church, his attitude continues to be one of joy. These verses continue to show Paul as a servant who puts his own personal comfort aside for the good of others and the glory of Christ.
3. What kind of "deliverance" is Paul referring to in verse 19?
Paul is either talking about temporal deliverance or eternal salvation. There seems to be a tension here – and that tension between temporal deliverance and eternal salvation is

evident throughout this passage. Perhaps, Paul was intentionally “vague?” Have the group discuss.

4. What is Paul’s main concern in verse 20? How does this rival some of our main concerns as we face difficult circumstances?
Notice, yet again Paul’s primary concern is the honor and glory of Christ. No matter what happens to him in life or in death, he only wants Jesus to be exalted. Get the group to think about how we have this type of mindset and what often rivals us.
5. From these verses what do we learn about Paul’s perspective on “life” and “death?” How does this differ from our contemporary culture’s view on these same 2 topics?
6. In verses 22-24, Paul seems to be “wrestling” with himself whether it would be better to die in custody or to live and be released.
 - a. As Paul thinks about death, what are the advantages?
 - b. As Paul thinks about life, what are the advantages?
 - c. What does Paul mean by “fruitful labor?” How does this compare with our mindset regarding what is fruitful and profitable?
7. In verse 25 Paul says he will “remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith.” How does Paul remaining bring about progress and joy in the Philippians? How might this work in the body of Restoration Church?
8. How do these verses show Paul’s concern for the good of “Grace Church Philippi” and the glory of Christ rather than his own personal wishes?
Have the group think about how Paul wrestles between the “advantages” of dying and seeing Jesus or living for the good of the Philippians. Compare Paul’s ideas with our own and with the culture around us. Draw out Paul’s continual mindset of the good of others and glories of Christ above his own personal preferences.
9. 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: How has our study of Philippians been an encouragement to you? Where have you seen God’s grace at work in other brothers and sisters?