

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Seeking the Interest of Christ (Pt. 2)***Joy Made Complete* | Philippians 2:25-30

## 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 2:19-24, Paul speaks of love for and confidence in Timothy, who he's sending to the Philippians.

## APPLY // PHILIPPIANS 2:19-24

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 2:12-30
2. Why does Paul desire to send Timothy and how can we relate to such a desire today?
3. How does the phrase "he has served with me in the gospel" inform Paul & Timothy's relationships? What might that look like for us today?
4. In what way does the gospel speak into this passage?

## STUDY // PHILIPPIANS 2:25-30

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. Read Philippians 2:25-30
2. Identify the various ways Paul describes Epaphroditus. Discuss the significance/meaning of each of these.
3. Why is Paul sending Epaphroditus back to the Philippian church? Describe the relationship of Paul, Epaphroditus, and the church at Philippi. How does this instruct us about our lives together as Christians?
4. What instructions does Paul give the Philippian church in receiving Epaphroditus?
  - a. What does it mean to "receive him in the Lord with all joy"?
  - b. What does it mean to "honor such men"?
  - c. What might this look like at Restoration Church?
5. Paul says tell the Philippians that Epaphroditus completes "what was lacking in your service to me"? What was lacking? Why is this such an important aspect of gospel partnership?

**NOTE: It appears what was lacking was the Philippians physical presence, which was of grand importance and encouragement to Paul.**

6. How are both Paul and Epaphroditus examples of having the mind of Christ and seeking His interests not their own? How does the gospel inform such a life?
7. How does the text inform the way we think about gospel partnerships with worker geographically separated from us? Think about our partnership with the workers in NIQ. How does this text help inform how we serve them?
8. Spend time praying for the workers in NIQ, our sister in the Middle East, our brother in the United Kingdom and any other global gospel workers your group members know.
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 apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** What areas of your life are marked more by self-interest than the interests of Christ? Where do you see God's grace in seeking the interest of Christ above your own?