

ROAD TO JOY: A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

The Joy of Purpose, Philippians 1:12-18

LEARNING THE WORD

1. Read Philippians 1:12-18. What happens? What seems most important?
2. If you were in Paul's situation, how would you most likely describe your personal circumstances, what prayer requests would you likely share with your friends?
3. How does Paul see his imprisonment having a positive effect on others? What two groups are impacted through his situation?
4. In verses 15-18, Paul is honest about some personal hardship that he is enduring because of some who preach out of selfish ambition, envy, rivalry. What are some ways that "Christ is proclaimed" in selfish ways today?
5. Verse 18 says, "What really matters then? Only that in every way...Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice." How does this verse sum up Paul's perspective and attitude throughout this passage? What can we learn from Paul?

LIVING THE WORD

6. When have you faced a setback or hardship in life, and then, looking back, you can see how God has proven faithful and used the situation to bring about some spiritual good? How did the experience shape your faith?
7. Read Philippians 3:17. As a follower of Jesus, in what ways does it help to have other examples to imitate and follow? Why is this so important in the life of a church?
8. How does Paul's example encourage you to find joy in the advance of the gospel in your own life and the lives of others, even when your circumstances are difficult?