

“The Joy of Ministry”
Philippians 1:12-20

Connecting:

Who is someone in your life who has made a significant impact in your faith journey? How did they impact you?

Observation:

The Apostle Paul was certainly in some less-than-ideal circumstances, namely being stuck in prison. What are some things that cause us to lose our joy in life?



Study:

Read Philippians 1:12-21. In verses 12-14, Paul talks about finding joy in the midst of challenges because the Gospel is being advanced. What might some examples or ways that we can turn obstacles in our lives for ministry opportunities for God's glory?

Look at verses 15-18. Why does motive matter in ministry? Who can we rejoice with and how might we guard ourselves from people with wrong motives? How does 1 Corinthians 13 tie into this?

Why can Paul be confident in the face of death (verses 19-21)?

What is your first response to verse 21?

Application:

How can the Gospel be advanced through your circumstances? (think creatively—see Paul's example in our passage)

What might be some ways we can promote unity and speak well of our fellow churches in our community?

J.R. Miller said, "No sorrow is too great to endure if it reveals to us some new beauty in Christ, or brings out in us some new feature of Christ-likeness." What is an example of something that God has revealed to you when you've gone through a difficult time in your life?

Prayer