



**Pathway Visalia Men's ministry:  
Apr. 6th-Paul Commends Timothy  
"Philippians"**



This next Pathway Men's Ministry will be on Apr. 6th at 6:30 pm. For those who were unable to attend and for anyone interested, we post the study on our Pathway Visalia website. I pray that you will be able to join us. It is such a blessing to share with one another. Below is an overview of the topics that we will discuss as we work our way through the book of Philippians.

**Philippians 2:29-30 -Paul Commends Epaphroditus:**

**29. Welcome him in the Lord's love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. 30. For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.**

**QUESTION: Paul outlines 3 ways to welcome Epaphroditus - Love, Joy and Honor. How can we put into practice this encouragement that Paul was instructing the Philippians to demonstrate to Epaphroditus as He returned to them?**

**QUESTION:** Paul also stated that Epaphroditus "risked his life for the work of Christ" - We don't typically have to risk our lives to serve Jesus, but we do often have to risk our work life or our social life to serve Jesus - Share some examples.

## **THE PRICELESS VALUE OF KNOWING CHRIST**

**Philippians 3:1-11**

1. Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice (Delight yourself in the Lord and continue to rejoice that you are in Him) in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith (it is a precaution for your safety).

Phillipians theme is JOY - and how to get it, and to maintain it.

J - Jesus first

O - Others second

Y - Yourself last

**QUESTION:** "rejoice" - take delight in, find/take pleasure in, find or take satisfaction in, feel satisfaction at, find joy in, enjoy, appreciate, revel in, glory in. - IN THE LORD. How do you show rejoicing in the Lord in your life?

**QUESTION:** The second point that Paul makes in verse 1 is; " I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith." - What is the purpose of coming to Church?

**QUESTION:** What can we do to emulate Paul's attitude of; "of never getting tired of tell your flock about the things of Christ".

As Joe was teaching in Galatians last month, we read in Galatians 4:16 "16. Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?"

**QUESTION: - Share a time where you had to confront someone with the truth of the Gospel in order to safe guard their faith.**

**2. Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. 3. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,**

**QUESTION: "Watch out" - what do you do to; "watch out" for ungodly influences in your life?**

**QUESTION: "We who worship by the Spirit of God" - what does it look like in your life to put this into practice?**

**QUESTION: "We put no confidence in human effort" - this is easier said than done - Is there an area that you often fall into re. putting confidence in your own effort?**

**QUESTION: What can we do to minimize the temptation to be self-confident?**

**4. though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! 5. I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.**

**Paul is outlining his old resume before his personal encounter with Christ.**

**QUESTION: Share how you have changed since your personal encounter with Jesus.**

**7. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

**QUESTION: What is the most valuable thing that you have in your life?**

**QUESTION: How can we explain the wonderful value of knowing Christ to an unbeliever?**

**For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9. and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.**

**QUESTION: What did you discard once you became a committed believer in Jesus?**

**QUESTION: Share times where you have put faith into action in your live.**

**10. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11. so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!**