



**Pathway Visalia Men's ministry:
Dec. 1st-Paul's life for Christ
"Philippians"**



This next Pathway Men's Ministry will be on Dec. 1st 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.

SHINE BRIGHTLY FOR CHRIST:

Philippians 2:16-18

16. Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. 17. But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. 18. Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.

QUESTION: We think about: "the day of Christ's return" these days a lot. Share how you would answer the question "did I run the race in vain and was my work useless"?

QUESTION: Are you rejoicing tonight? And if so, what are you rejoicing about?

QUESTION: Share an example of group joy that you share with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

PAUL COMMENDS TIMOTHY – Philippians 2:19-24

19. If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. 20. I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. 21. All the others (those who deserted me after my arrest), care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. 22. But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. 23. I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. 24. And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

QUESTION: “If the Lord Jesus is willing” – Share how you determined God’s will in a situation or decision that you had to make.

QUESTION: “I hope to send Timothy” – We often have plans and hopes – Share a time where you were certain that you had a plan that the Lord was directing and later you saw that the plan couldn’t be accomplished. How did you respond?

QUESTION: In our day we can almost get instant updates on how people that we love and minister to are doing. What do you do to follow Paul’s example of checking on others?

QUESTION: It's important to have Timothy's in our lives. Share your experience with a person that you have mentored.

QUESTION: vs. 21. "All the others (those who deserted me after my arrest), care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ." – What hurts the most about people who desert you and more importantly – people who you served with and ministered to, who walked away from Jesus?

QUESTION: "Confidence from the Lord" – Share a time when you had full confidence from the Lord in a situation.

Philippians 2:25-30 -Paul Comments Epaphroditus:

25. Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. 26. I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. 27. And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. 28. So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you.

QUESTION: “a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier” – A great description of working together with a fellow Christians at church – but there is one word that Paul inserts that is very important – “TRUE”. Let’s talk about experiences you have had where it comes apparent that the person you worked with demonstrates they really weren’t saved.

6 Litmus tests to determine if I am a Christian

- 1 - I will want to spend personal time with Christ
- 2 - I will love the things that Christ loves
- 3 - I will love the people the God loves
- 4 - I will hate the thing that God hates
- 5 - I will long for the return of Jesus
- 6 - If I love the Lord, then I will keep His commandments.

QUESTION: Now, (on a more positive note) Let’s talk about the blessing of working together as a team to further the work of Christ.

QUESTION: “I will not be so worried about you.” – Paul stated that he was anxious and worried about the needs of others. Are you anxious or worried about others tonight?

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 in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

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; "never getting tired of tell your flock"

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, 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. 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. 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. 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!