



“Finding Joy Begins With Denying Self”

Philippians
“striving side by side
for the faith of the
gospel”

Primary Text: Philippians 2:17-30

1. Pray (2 mins)

Pause. Acknowledge you are about to open God’s word.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

2. Warm-Up (20 mins)

Read Philippians Chapter 2

- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what is the one thing that most resonated with you?
- What have we learned about the book of Philippians (author, theme, purpose)? Why is this information important?
- Who can tell us about our author, Paul; how did he come to know Jesus? Where can we find his story in the Bible?
- Can anyone give us a general summary of how we arrived at this current text? What has Paul taught us in his letter to the Philippians up to this point?

3. Illuminate (30 mins)

On the reverse side of this page you will find our text. Use this page to circle/underline/connect.

- The Bible rewards the careful and patient reader with powerful truths, what have you uncovered in this text thus far?
- How does Paul describe Timothy and Epaphroditus? (Reflection: How do you think Paul would describe each of us?)
- The efforts of the church are a team effort; how do each of these 3 men in this text specifically model Christ to strive side by side for the faith of the gospel?
- The truths of the Bible are meant to be shared. Given the opportunity, could you now explain this text to someone else? Anyone brave enough to try it now?

4. Pray (10 mins)

Rather than take prayer requests, let’s bring our requests to God through prayer. Let’s talk to Him.

How to Pray?

- Acknowledge that he is God (He is holy).
- Acknowledge that we need Him (We are sinful)
- Thank Him for how he has provided for you (He is faithful)
- Cast your cares upon Him (He hears us)
- Ask that His will be done (His will is truly what is best for us)

Primary Text: Philippians 2:17-30

¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy and Epaphroditus

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.