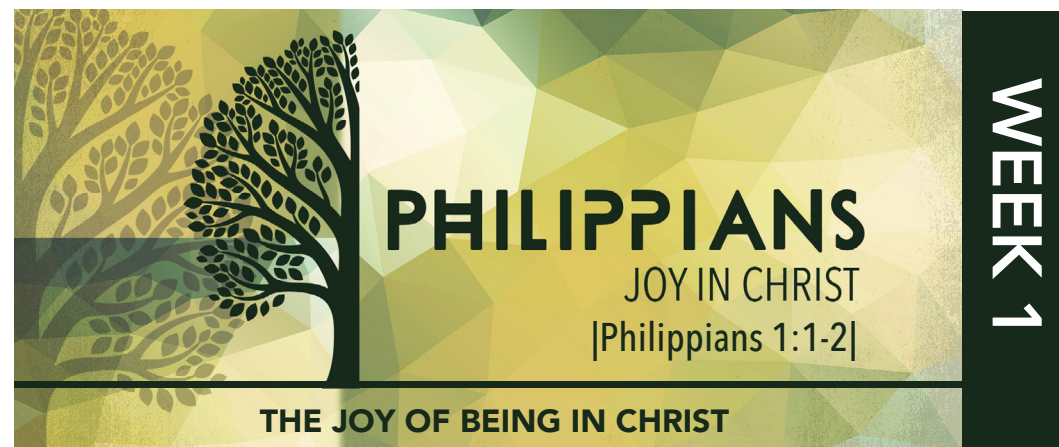


SERMON NOTES:



WESTERN MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH
COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE



OPENING THOUGHT

The letter of Philippians was written by the Apostle Paul to the Christians in the city of Philippi. Paul, traveling with Silas, Luke, and Timothy, planted the church in Philippi, and Acts 16 describes a few of the city's first believers, like Lydia, the jailer, and their families. Paul was imprisoned, probably in Rome, at the time of writing his letter, which is a response to the Philippians sending Epaphratus with a gift for Paul. The tone of Philippians, therefore, is quite different than many of Paul's other letters. Here the apostle is not primarily writing to correct false teaching or rebuke rampant sin; instead, he is writing to further encourage the Philippians to continue growing in their faith. Even though the Philippians were apparently suffering some form of persecution (1:28) and Paul himself was imprisoned, his refrain throughout the epistle is a command to rejoice. No matter the external circumstances, Paul is confident that his readers will find joy and contentment in Christ.

We begin by studying the greeting of Paul's letter. As was typical of ancient epistles, the author (Paul) is stated first, followed by the recipients (the Philippians), and then a greeting was given (grace and peace). Although these two verses may seem fairly simple and easily overlooked, they are filled with Christ-exalting truth, setting the tone for the remainder of the letter.

For more information and resources visit:

www.wmbc.church
www.bcnewton.co

SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION

- Philippians 1:1-2 | Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GROUP DISCUSSION

READ PHILIPPIANS 1:1-2 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

1. Which verses stood out most to you as you read Philippians 1:1-2 this week? Why? What do these verses teach you about who God is?
2. Do you submit to Christ as your Lord? Are you a slave of Christ? Are there any aspects of your life that you withhold from Jesus' lordship?
3. How often do you consider your being in Christ? Would you consider yourself heavenly-minded or worldly-minded? How might fixing our eyes on Christ enable us to be better citizens here and now?
4. Why does Paul greet the Philippians by pronouncing grace and peace? What do those two words mean? Why are they so significant to followers of Christ?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Because all Scripture profits us through teaching, reproof, correcting, and training us, reflect upon the studied text, and ask yourself the following questions about the present text

- What has God taught you about Himself?
- What sin is God convicting or reproofing you of?
- How is God correcting you?
- How is God training and equipping you for righteousness?

PRAY AND FAST FOR EAST ASIA

- Pray and fast as many interns are finishing their season in East Asia, that the LORD may guide them as they continue their ministries either back in the States or returning there.

Western Meadows Community Groups

Colemans / Sunday @ 6:00

Mays / Tuesday @ 6:30

Whitleys / Wednesday @ 6:00

Richards / Thursday @ 6:00

Newtons (Spanish) / Monday @ 5:30

For more information ask Andy Whitley