

GREATER JOY

[DISCUSSION QUESTIONS]

October 24, 2021

Sharing Together in God's Grace

What are some things that bring you joy or make your heart happy?

In Philippians 1:3, Paul says, "I thank my God every time I remember you." Who is someone (besides a family member) you think of when you hear that phrase? Share why you are thankful for that person?

Paul wrote his letters for specific purposes. What was the purpose of the letter to the Philippians? What is an example of how you've had joy in a difficult situation because of your relationship with Jesus?

Ted talked about the importance of gratefulness, prayer, understanding the gospel, praise and confidence in your salvation. How do each of these five disciplines things bring joy to a believer? Are any of these disciplines difficult for you? How can you work to improve that area?

Read Revelation 2:4-5

List the three things the church at Ephesus was instructed to do after forgetting their first love. Is there an area of live where you have lost joy in the Lord? Do you think these directives would be helpful in restoring that joy?

In many of Paul's letters, he begins by saying "Grace and peace to you." Is your life full of the grace and peace Paul wishes for us? Why or why not?

Read Philippians 1:6-9

What do you think this verse means? Who do you know who seems to have the joy of the Lord? How do you recognize this joy?

What does Paul pray for us in verse 9? What insight do you feel you've received recently?

Paul was in chains when he wrote the letter to the the Philippians. What kept him from being discouraged?

Read Philippians 1:15-18

How did Paul respond when he knew some preached Christ out of "selfish ambition," or "not sincerely?" How do you feel about his response? How do you respond when you question someone's motives?

End your time praying that God would reveal any person or thing that you lean on as a source for your joy. Repent for allowing anything to take first place in your life and then end your time in thanksgiving for the blessings God has given you. Watch for opportunities to show the joy of the Lord to others this week.