

Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Series: Joyful Faith
Sermon Title: Eternal Optimism

Date: May 10, 2009

Passage: Philippians 1:9-11

Message # 3

Think about it

- "Life is not fair." How does that statement come across to you?
- Have you ever had something happen to you, only much later to realize the significance of that event?
- Why do you think there are so many different denominations and churches in the Christian faith?
- What do you think God thinks about it?
- What gives you courage to speak about Jesus Christ to others?

Examine it

- What does Paul say about his imprisonment? (12-14)
- What different motivations did others have to preach Christ? (14-17)
- What did Paul say the "important thing" was? (18)
- What caused Paul to rejoice? (18)

Discuss it

- Paul seemed o.k. with his being in prison, and even having others working against him. Why?
- What would it be like to be in Paul's situation?
- What are some reasons people talk about Christ to others?
- What are some reasons we should share the gospel with others?
- What would it take to motivate you to share Jesus Christ with others?
- Where (or with whom) is it easiest for you to share Christ? Where is it most difficult? Why?
- Should Christ being shared with others excite us? Why or why not?
- Do you get excited when the gospel is presented to others? Why or why not?

Live it out

- How can we grow in our ability to share the Gospel with others?
- How can we grow in our willingness to share the Gospel with others?
- How can you pray for each other when it comes to these things?
- How can you encourage others to be bold in their faith this week?
- What can you do this week to grow in your willingness to share spiritual things with others?

Pray about it

What does this study prompt you to pray about?

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-5; 1 Peter 4:12-14

Next week's passage: Philippians 1:19-26