



REIMAGINE

WEEK 5 - GROWING IN JOY OVERVIEW

As Paul considers the possible end of his life in an Ephesian jail, he wants the Philippians to understand that whether he lives or dies, he will “bring honor to Christ” (1:20). Why? Because if he dies, he will go to be with the Lord. But if he lives, he can live for Christ and even visit with the Philippians again to help them “grow and experience the joy of their faith” (1:25).

This mindset, of complete confidence that God is working, is one we must have as we lead Grace Church into the future. If we face hardships, we’ll experience God’s presence in the midst of them. If we face abundance, we’ll experience God’s blessing in new ways. Either way, let us not be ashamed of what God is doing at Grace, but renew our dedication to join God in his mission to heal this broken world!

I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past.

Philippians 1:20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do our lives in Christ point beyond ourselves? (Like looking into a portal, as Barry described)
2. Read Philippians 1:20-26. How does Paul’s life or body magnify/exalt (*megalynō*) Christ, whether in good times or bad, in life or death?
3. Read Philippians 1:27-30.
 - a. Explain how Philippians were citizens of Rome. What would be a comparison of this today?
 - b. How would Philippians understand what it means to be citizens of heaven?
 - c. Even though people don’t really make offerings to Roman gods in our culture today, how is our culture similar to Philippi in Paul’s time?
 - d. Barry said, “The soil beneath your feet becomes the soil of the kingdom of God. When people look at you, they are seeing Christ and his kingdom. And everywhere you go, you’re taking heaven along with you.” What does that mean to you?
 - e. Why is it important to remember that we don’t belong here - we are citizens of heaven?
4. When people look at you, do they see Jesus? In what ways could they see Jesus?
5. How could Grace Church be a colony of God’s love in a broken world?