**Growth Group Bible Study**

Shining Like Stars: Living with Joy in a Dark World - Series

*Chained with Joy*

April 18, 2021

**Reading** Philippians 1:12-18

**Intro:**

1. What is something you learned in last weekend’s message?

2. How did the message challenge you?

**READ: Philippians 1:12-18**

1. Paul is writing from prison. He is chained 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to a guard. What does Paul see as a positive about his captivity?
2. Why is it difficult to find positive feelings when we are going through a very difficult trial or situation? What do you think was Paul’s secret?
3. How does the whole palace guard know that Paul is a Christian? (Philippians 1:13) Wouldn’t it be dangerous to share your faith with those who are guarding you? What compels Paul to share his faith?
   1. Paul is convinced:
      1. That Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world.
      2. That Jesus Christ was crucified and then rose from the dead.
      3. That the Gospel message about Jesus must be shared with others since Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
4. Why do you think Paul’s imprisonment has helped other believers living in Rome to share the Gospel with others?
5. If Paul was arrested for his faith in Christ, why aren’t they afraid of being arrested?

Now read the same passage from the Message version of the Bible: *It’s true that some here preach Christ because with me out of the way, they think they’ll step right into the spotlight. But the others do it with the best heart in the world. One group is motivated by pure love, knowing that I am here defending the Message, wanting to help. The others, now that I’m out of the picture, are merely greedy, hoping to get something out of it for themselves. Their motives are bad. They see me as their competition, and so the worse it goes for me, the better—they think—for them. So how am*

*I to respond? I’ve decided that I really don’t care about their motives, whether mixed, bad, or indifferent. Every time one of them opens his mouth, Christ is proclaimed, so I just cheer them on! And I’m going to keep that celebration going* (Philippians 1:15–18, The Message)

1. Paul describes two groups in Rome that are sharing the gospel. What are the differences between the two groups according to Paul?
2. Even though these two groups have different motives, what does Paul say is the result that outweighs the motives? (verse 18) Why do you think this makes Paul rejoice?
3. Have there been times when you have found yourself critical of the motives or methods of other Christians or churches? What do you think Paul’s advice would be to you when you feel this way?
4. What is one take away for you in this section of Scripture (Phil. 1:12-18)?