**Growth Group Bible Study**

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

*What Really Matters*

April 25, 2021

**Group Questions**

1. Describe your dream holiday if money was no limit?

2. Complete the sentence “I wish everyone could…”

3. What do you look most forward to about going to heaven?

**READ: Philippians 1:19-25**

 1. Please complete the following sentence for an average American your age:

 To live is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to die is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Paul was clearly not overly concerned about his life and he trusted God with his future. What does it mean to have an eternal perspective?

3. Paul listed a number of things he knows for sure and some with good certainty and some unknowns. Can we list them? What is his major unknown? If you were him, how might you handle this unknown? How does he handle it?

 A. What are some things Paul “knows” or has confidence in? (List)

 B. What are some things that Paul does not know or is uncertain about?

 C. The word “know” means to be absolutely certain about something. What are some things in your life as a Christ-follower that you are absolutely certain of?

4. In "choosing" to live or die, Paul makes another contrast between the living and dying? List them. By declaring "to live is Christ and to die is gain", what do you think Paul is saying? How can it be better to die? What is Paul's goal and purpose in life? How does his aim help him handle the chains, the attacks, and the thought of death?

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| Live | Die |
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5. Do you think much about seeing Jesus face to face?

 -How has or how would thinking about heaven and seeing Jesus affect how you live your life?

 -How do you deal with the thought of death?

6. Have you ever wondered why God left you here on this earth after you came to faith in Jesus Christ? (Explain)

7. God has placed in our life a Circle of Contacts (people at work, store, neighbors, etc.). Many of these people are unbelievers and unchurched. There are people that you have a unique relationship and trust with. What are some practical ways for you to share Christ with them?

**Reading challenge** - Read the book of Philippians every day for the next 7 days