

## 011920 Growth Group Study

### Al(I)ways Rejoice



**Background:** Paul has let the Philippian Christians know that although he is in chains, Christ is being preached, the gospel is gaining ground, and so he rejoices. As Paul shifts his focus to his own predicament, we learn he isn't totally sure if his imprisonment will end in freedom via deliverance from his chains or salvation via death. Knowing God will orchestrate his life's journey, whether it be through a fruitful ministry on earth, or by receiving the crown of life after being faithful unto death, Paul, in all ways, will always rejoice! Can we follow his lead in living our lives on this side of eternity!?

#### **Sermon Text: Phil 1:18b-26 (ESV)**

*Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.*

## Discussion Questions

### 1. Preparation

- a. As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
- b. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- c. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?

### 2. Sermon questions

- a. Introduction: What is the state of your soul? Can you say that it is “well with your soul” today?
- b. Paul’s source of confidence (why he can rejoice) is from the support/prayers of his friends and from the help of the Spirit (v 19). Do you find confidence in the support of your friends and from God’s presence in you? Why or why not?
- c. Fill in the blank for you: To die is \_\_\_\_\_. Is it “gain” for you as it is for Paul? Why or why not?
- d. And, fill in this blank for you: To live is \_\_\_\_\_. Is it “Christ” for you as it is for Paul? Why or why not?
- e. Moving forward, Ryan said that maybe a better question for us is, “How can I be more aware of God’s presence in my everyday life?” How would you answer that question? (Possible answers could be: beginning the day with the Lord, putting stickies around that remind you, soaking in Scripture, etc).