CrossWay
BIBLE CHURCH

Community Group Sermon Application Questions- Week of Sunday 9/22

Philippians 1:8-19: "That Christ would be Highly Honored"

Central Truth: God has an amazing plan to transform us so that we see any and every circumstance as opportunities to deepen our faith and proclaim His glory.

Begin with reading the passage together. These verses give us 2 directives and 4 results.

Pray to see with God's Eyes

1) Looking at the Paul's words in verse 8, how does God use friendships in the gospel for His glory and our good? Why are deep friendships based in the gospel so essential (and perhaps so elusive)? (Read also 1 John 4:7-11)

2) Looking at the prayer in verses 9-11, why is it so important that Paul connects knowledge and discernment to his prayer for them to grow in love? What problems could emerge when one of these three elements is missing in our lives?

3) How might applying the prayer in verses 9-11 help prepare the Philippians (and us) to properly read what might seem like shocking words in verses 12-19 (about Paul's situation)? How can this prayer for the Philippian church inform how you pray and encourage others, especially during trials?

Live with a Renewed Perspective
(3 Results found in vv.12-19: --Our affliction becomes a megaphone for the gospel. –Our godly response to trials empowers others. –His humility focuses our ambitions to find our joy in Him)

4) How does God use our suffering to advance the gospel? What needs to happen in your life for this renewed perspective to take root?

5) Give some personal examples of how God could (or has used) use your suffering to provide an opportunity to proclaim the gospel to others.

6) Based on this passage, what does a deep-seated joy look like as we mature in Christ? (Feel free to also look ahead to next week's passage, 1:20-26).

7) Based on verses 14-19, how does finding our joy in Christ serve to protect us from the damage that can come from others' offenses? In what ways might our attitude be transformed even though the circumstances remain the same?