

Grace Group Discussion Guide

The Believer's True Joy Spencer Long Philippians 3:1–11

Synopsis:

Paul through Philippians 3:1–11 lays out a road map towards the believer's true joy, so that you may stand firm in the Lord.

He does so by...

1. Charging to Rejoice
2. Cautioning to Beware
3. Confessing to Loss
4. Counseling to be Found in Christ

Questions:

1. Why is it so critical to constantly remind one another to be joyful in the Lord?
2. Paul was firm on calling out false teaching, why is it critical that the church likewise defends the purity of the Gospel message?
3. How can self-righteousness begin to strip the believer of his joy and cloud the Gospel?
4. How do you reconcile good works that the Lord has commanded the Christian to walk in without putting confidence in your flesh?
5. Why is the experience of being justified so valuable to the believer?
6. Why is it critical for you to place your joy in knowing Christ rather than in your ability to follow the law? Why would the pursuit of self-righteousness prove to be unfruitful for the believer?
7. How is it that Paul can rejoice in the loss of all that he has accomplished in his life? What can you learn from him?
8. Why is suffering like Christ a thing to be joyful over, what does it lead too?
9. What are some ways we can encourage those around us to know Christ in the same way that Paul has described in this text?

Prayer Suggestion:

- Pray for Molly and Hayden Rogers as their two baby girls are in the ICU with RSV, that they would recover well and the Lord's hand would be their comfort.
- Many in our church are grieving the loss of family, praying that they would cast all their cares upon the Lord.
- Pray that our church would be a people filled with joy because we know Christ through his resurrection power that has redeemed us, sanctifies us, and will glorify us in the last days.

Missions Prayer Requests:

Missionary Focus: Zellers in Dubai

They are still seeking to build their team! Pray they would find additional faithful, qualified, mission-minded Bible/theology professors to join with what the Lord is doing in Arabia. Pray in particular for connections and meetings during this week's Shepherd's conference that might open doors.

With the current conflict between the US+Israel and Iran (bombs within 20 miles of them), pray the Lord would bring true peace and gospel opportunity to their region, for safety for their staff and students in the UAE, and discernment about any impact this might have on travel plans over the next couple of weeks.

During these next few months, their leadership team and board are having a series of meetings to build their strategy for the next ten years; pray for much wisdom in planning and God to use these plans to enhance his kingdom.

They don't know where they are going to have classes in Fall 2026! This has been an ongoing challenge in Dubai but becomes more difficult as the seminary grows. They are working hard to find a more stable, longer-term facility situation for the seminary. Pray for God to provide!

Pray for their kids - Caroline, Emmett, Randall, Makaria, and Moses - to love the Lord, to grow in him, and to labor for his glory at church, work, and school. Pray for Eric & Heather to parent with unity, truth, and joy.