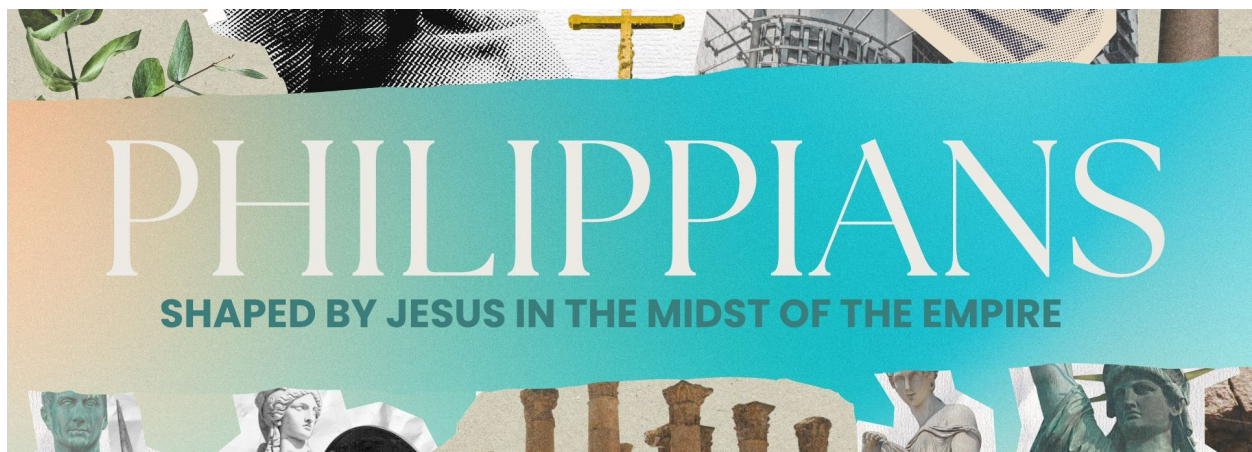




Discussion Guide:

When Jesus Begins a Work in You

Passage: Philippians 1:12-26

Sermon Outline:

1. Rejoice in God's Plan – even when our plans are taken away.
 - a. Jesus's work cannot be stopped (vv 12-13).
 - b. Jesus's work cannot be stopped by fear (v14).
 - c. Jesus's work cannot be stopped by betrayal (vv15-18).
2. Rejoice in the pain, because Christ meets you in it (v19).
 - a. The help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
 - b. The prayers of the church.
3. Rejoice in Christ, even in death, because Christ is everything (vv20-26).

Discussion Questions

1. Opening Questions: When was the last time something didn't go according to your plan – big or small? How did you respond to that? How did it make you feel.
2. Paul says his imprisonment "served to advance the gospel," reaching even the imperial guard (v. 13). In light of Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28, can you share a time when, looking back, you saw God working through something you never would have chosen?
3. How did Paul's example affect the other believers (v. 14)? Why do you think faithful courage in one person produces courage in others? Who is a believer in your life — past or present — whose faithfulness in a hard season strengthened your own faith? What did you see in them?

4. Read 1 Peter 1:6–7 and Philippians 3:10. What is God doing in us through suffering, according to these verses? Can you share a season when you came to know Jesus more deeply through pain than you ever had in comfort?

5. Tae said that "sorrow and joy can live in the same heart." Is that a new idea to you, or one you've experienced? How is biblical "rejoicing in suffering" different from pretending everything is fine?

6. Paul says God is using both the Spirit within him and the prayers of the church around him to carry him through. Why do you think God designed suffering to be carried in community, not alone?

7. Paul calls death "gain." Why is that only possible for someone whose life is Christ? In what way does death actually bring more of Christ, not less (v. 23)?

8. Where in your life right now do you most need to hear, "Jesus is still working" — even though you can't see it yet?

9. If Christ truly became your supreme treasure this week — more than comfort, approval, security, or family — what is one thing that would change in how you live, give, speak, or risk for Him?

At the end, break into pairs or smaller groups of three. Share one specific area where you need Christ to be your joy and your treasure this week — a chain you're carrying, a pain you're walking through, or an idol you're letting go of. Then pray for each other by name.