

Reflection Questions: Philippians 1:1-2

For the message, “Captivated by the Lord Jesus Christ” given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on October 2, 2022

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Philippians 1:1-2

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's get started...

- Blaise Pascal once said, “All men seek happiness. This is without exception.” And Augustine once said, “Man is unable not to wish to be happy.” What do you think about these quotes? And what does it say about what it means to be human?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Paul begins his letter to the Philippians—a letter about profound joy in Christ—by describing himself as a servant (literally, a “slave”) of Christ Jesus. What do you make of Paul finding joy in being a slave of Jesus, even while Paul is in prison awaiting possible execution on a Roman cross? Or to put it another way, why is his joy not dependent upon his circumstances?
- Verse one also speaks about our union with Christ when Paul writes “to all the saints in Christ Jesus.” Union with Christ means that we are in a very real sense “in Christ” and Christ is “in us” (“Do you not realize this about yourselves, that Christ Jesus is in you?” - 2 Corinthians 13:5).
 - What does this mean for you personally? How do you want to grow in experiencing this reality?
- In verse two, Paul speaks about grace and peace coming to the saints (to the original Philippian Christians and to us!) from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - What does it mean for you to relate to God on the basis of grace and not your performance?
 - Why does peace from God naturally flow from the grace of God?

- Paul obviously wants us to grow in our experience of grace and peace. Does this resonate with you? Why or why not?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- How do you think it would change things if we began to view each other as “saints in Christ Jesus”? What obstacles exist in your mind to making this shift? How would this help us to flourish as the people of God called to follow Jesus as a community of faith in BCS?
- If we don't grow in viewing each other as saints in Christ Jesus, what other ways of thinking about each other might we fall into?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does the idea that we are servants / slaves of Christ Jesus inform the way we interact with our city, our neighbors and colleagues, our friends and family?
- How do you think it would change things if we consciously believed everyday that God has placed us in two locations: (1) in Christ, and (2) in BCS (just as the original recipients of this letter were located in Philippi)? How might that inform your sense of calling to this place?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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