



## Week 2: It's On the Way David Liauw

**WARM UP QUESTION:** What do you do when you can't find joy in life?

**READ:** *Philippians 1:12-26*

**FOCUS:** When Christ is life, joy is invincible in the present and inevitable in the future.

### OBSERVE:

- The book of Philippians tackles the question of how to have joy even in suffering. In this book we see how Paul was able to encourage the church in the midst of his own suffering.
- **When Christ is life, life is worth living.** What does it mean when Paul says Christ is life? In Philippians 1:20-21, 24, we see that Paul considers his sole purpose as publicly honoring Christ in his life and in his death. His mantra was to live is Christ and to die is gain. Paul found something that is better than what life can give and something that death can't take away. When Christ is life, it is an extraordinary life.
- **When Christ is life, joy is invincible in the present.** Even when Paul was in prison, he still had joy (Phil 1:18). His joy came from the fact that the Gospel was advancing because he is in the prison (Phil 1:12-13). On top of the suffering he faced in prison, he also faced suffering from leaders of the church in Philippi, who were slandering Paul and saying that

his imprisonment meant that he did something wrong. They used this situation to elevate themselves in ministry (Phil. 1:17). Paul's response was that the proclamation of the Gospel was more important to him than their poor choice of motivation (Phil. 1:18). Jesus mattered more to Paul than his own reputation.

- **When Christ is life, joy is inevitable in the future** (Phil 1:18-26). Paul was able to rejoice in the future because of his future deliverance; in the Greek this deliverance meant vindication (Phil. 1:19). This encouraged Paul to know that he would not be ashamed (Phil. 1:20). Paul says that through the prayers of the church in Philippi and through the help of the Holy Spirit, that he would be able to courageously and boldly talk about Christ in public, even in front of his accusers.

### REFLECT:

- When you live, is your life about Jesus?
- Are you serving in a way that your absence will be missed?
- Do people know you well enough to pray for you when things are hard?

### TAKE ACTION:

- Get connected to a Life Group and find people in the church who can know you and pray for you when life gets tough.
- Share with someone about how Jesus has changed your life.

### PRAY:

*Jesus, we thank You that we do not have to live life alone. Life is all about You and giving You glory, honor and praise. We pray that You would help us to trust You in the hard times, and we pray that You would open our eyes to others around us. We thank You, Jesus, that You can identify with our suffering because You suffered as well on the cross. Thank You for giving us the gift of eternal life. Amen.*

