WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Series Title: Summer in Philippians - Part 2 - Joy in the Gospel
Key Scripture: Phil 1:12-26
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices
Date + Speaker: July 9, 2023 | Pastor Matt Schmid

Starter Question:

1. What 'niche' type interest are you passionate about? E.g. BBQ, muscle cars, cross-fit, baking sour dough…? How did this passion develop? How do you feel when you are engaged in the activity?
This week, as we continue in the letter to the Philippians, we will discuss 'gospel centred passion' and, in particular, its relationship to joy.

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):

2. Read Philippians 1:12-18. Invite the group to recall the details of the context in which this passage was written. [Philippian church formed during Paul's second missionary journey, Roman citizen in prison in Rome, chained to guards on 4 hour rotation - more helpful details can be found here: https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-pauline-epistles/philippians]
3. What word or idea is repeated frequently in this passage? ['The gospel']. What significance might this have?
4. How does Paul's passion affect his perspective on a) his circumstances [planted not chained], b) his community [remember your influence] and c) conflict [neither drawn in nor distracted]

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application):

In John 15 Jesus promises his followers complete joy. Pastor Matt emphasized the main take-away from the sermon – THE KEY TO JOY IS GOSPEL CENTRED PASSION
5. We gain this perspective, Pastor Matt suggests, by adopting 3 disciplines/ways. Retreat (Mark 6:31b & 32), Recentre (Col 3:10 & Matt 6:33) and Rejoice (Phil 1:18b & Phil 4:4) How has 'changing your mind' made a difference in your perspective recently? [For discussion purposes consider secular research in neuroplasticity, principles behind CBT and how these relate to Romans 12:2, Phil 1:18 and (spoiler alert) Phil 4: 8, 11-13]
6. Pastor Matt referred to evaluating our spiritual maturity by asking the following questions a) what does it take to steal your joy? And b) how able are you to see God at work in your circumstances? Would anyone be comfortable sharing their answers to those questions and any subsequent steps you took?
7. How will this passage and Paul's perspective affect your view of your present circumstances?