

**Sermon: A Disciple-Making Church.**  
**Series: Church on Mission.**

**Scripture: Philippians 1:12-26.**  
**Date: September 7, 2025**

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**OBSERVATION** -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

**INTERPRETATION** -- Answer these questions together:

**1. What does this passage teach us about us?**

- a) Think about a particular hardship that you are currently facing. Is there any part of your life that feels like “imprisonment?”
- b) Read verse 25. How would you describe your personal “progress and joy in the faith?” In what ways has the hardship you named above aided your progress in the faith or hindered your progress in the faith?
- c) How would you honestly fill in these blanks: “For me to live is \_\_\_\_ and to die is \_\_\_\_.”

**2. What does this passage teach us about God?**

- a) What foundational beliefs about God are helping you to process the hardship you identified above?
- b) In what ways can your hardship bring honor to God? (Think about the quote from John Piper: “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.”)

**3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?**

- a) Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Jesus despised the shame and replaced it with joy. What role has shame played in any lack of progress and joy in the faith that you are feeling? How does trusting “to live is Christ and to die is gain” allow you to replace your shame with joy?

**APPLICATION**

- a) V. 25. In what specific way can you commit to the progress and joy of others in the faith (start with this small group)?
- b) Read Phil. 1:12-13. In what ways can your current situation be an opportunity to “advance the gospel?”

**PRAYER**

- Praise God for salvation (“deliverance”) through Christ.
- Confess ways that you have lived for things other than Christ.
- Thank Jesus for his defeating of shame and replacing it with joy.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to allow you to help others progress in the faith with joy.