



“Bad Day” Joy

Philippians 1:12-30

LG Questions for 10/05/08

Getting Started:

- 1) Everybody has “bad days.” a) Describe the worst day or year you’ve had and what helped you weather it. b) Now consider Paul’s plight - in prison for a crime he didn’t commit and deserted by his friends. Then a gift arrives from a special messenger assuring him he’s loved. How would that help your mood on a “bad day,” and what would you say in a “thank you” note to your friend?

Getting into the Bible

- 2) Read Philippians 1:12-17. a) In addition to being in prison for a crime he didn’t commit (See Acts 21:27-31 and 25:8-12.), what other factors made this a difficult situation for Paul? b) If you have a Bible dictionary, explain why you would not have wanted to stand before Nero Caesar in judgment.
- 3) Read Philippians 1:18-26. a) How was Paul’s purpose for living a key to his joyful attitude? Count the number of times the word “gospel” is used in this chapter and tell what it reveals about his purpose. b) Bible scholars point to Philippians 1:21 - “For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain” - as the key verse of this book. Memorize this verse as an aid in your pursuit of joy.
- 4) Read Philippians 1:27-30. a) According to Paul’s value system, how should we followers of Jesus view our suffering? b) Compare this to what Jesus said and explain how it’s possible to react with joy even when bad things happen to us? (See Matthew 5:11-12 and Revelation 2:10.) c) How is Acts 5:40-41 a beautiful and practical example of this principle?

Getting Personal

- 5) a) Name someone you’ve known who had a life purpose similar to Paul and how this made a difference in his/her life. b) Now test your own value system. Describe an unpleasant situation you’re facing today and what your reaction is revealing about your love for Christ. If you need encouragement, be sure to ask your life group members to support you in prayer.