



**PHILIPPIANS:
ENJOYING LIFE**
An interactive Bible study for
individuals, families,
and LIFE Groups

~ Week Three ~
"Mud or Stars?"
Philippians 1:12-18

SERMON NOTES

Write your insights and observations from today's sermon here:

Welcome to UPC's weekly Bible study guide. We pray that this tool will help you **RECALL** what you heard in the Sunday sermon, **REFLECT** on the Scriptures more fully, and **RESPOND** with love to God, church, and community. If you miss a sermon, or would like to review it, visit our website: www.upc-orlando.com.

WARM UP

What do you complain about the most?

RECALL THE SUNDAY SERMON

Read Philippians 1:12-18

a) What was the most personally helpful or relevant thing you took away from this week's sermon?

b) Make a list of the various challenges facing Paul when he was in Rome writing his letter to the Philippians:

c) How did Paul react to those challenges?

d) What enabled Paul to react that way instead of complaining?

REFLECT A BIT FURTHER

- a) When you look at your circumstances, which do you tend to see: mud, or stars? Why is that?

- b) Why did Paul's imprisonment really serve "to advance the gospel," as he puts it in verse 12?

- c) Think back to a time when you felt "imprisoned" – that is, inconvenienced, unjustly treated, persecuted, rejected, etc. Can you identify 1 or 2 ways that experience really served to advance the gospel in your or someone else's life?

- d) It's a tremendous testimony to the power of the gospel in Paul's life that he could rejoice when he was in prison while other people were preaching Christ – especially considering that some of them were trying to hurt Paul! Suppose God suddenly took away some gift or opportunity that you find personally fulfilling. Would you be so secure in Christ that you could "continue to rejoice" (vs. 18)? Why or why not?

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- a) It is clear from this week's Bible reading that Paul had a truly "catholic" spirit. This means that he appreciated other expressions of the body of Christ instead of viewing them as competition to his own ministry. Are there other parts of Christ's body on earth toward whom you harbor resentment, prejudice, or a judgmental spirit? If so, identify them here. Pray for the ability to do two things: to repent of your pride, and to rejoice in their progress.

- b) Write down on a Post-It note verse 12 of this week's passage. Read it whenever you are tempted to complain about something!

PRAY FOR UPC

Please pray this week for:

- Our **elders and pastors** as they make decisions affecting next year's ministry budget.
- The **Easter Fun Fest** coming up on Saturday, April 8 - that God will use it to draw families in east Orlando to Himself.
- **Vacation Bible School** June 11-16 - that many children will give their hearts to Jesus that week.
- Our **Women's Ministry**, as they plan their annual spring retreat for May 19-21.
- **Marc & Kim St. Angelo**, who welcomed their new baby girl, Abigail Rebecca, into the world on March 19 (at a healthy 10 lb., 5 oz.!).
- **Jim & Jessie Chynoweth**, who have returned safely from Jim's military deployment in the Horn of Africa.
- Our upcoming **Celebration of the Arts** on Saturday, April 29, that God will be glorified by our use of His gifts to us.
- Our ministry partner, **Covenant College**, in Lookout Mtn., GA, as graduating seniors make plans for the future.