

JOY in the JOURNEY

Philippians 2:1-16: JOY in UNITY

VV: 1-4

J__ comes from U____ comes from H_____

VV. 5-11

Jesus E_____ in Glory, E_____ of Glory, E_____ to Glory

VV. 12-16

We w___ o___ what God p___ i_

POINTS TO PONDER IN DEVOTIONS OR SMALL GROUPS

VV: 1-4: On Unity: Look up these verses: Psalm 133, Proverbs 6:16-19, Romans 13:13, Galatians 5:20, Ephesians 4:1-3. Think of how harmful and sinful is dissension and how pleasant and enriching is unity. Have you ever been the cause of dissension? Do you need to ask forgiveness and change your ways? Do you help to bring unity? How can you increase your efforts to do so?

VV. 5-11: On Salvation: Re-read Philippians 2:5-11. Reflect on the journey of Jesus from everything to nothing to everything. Meditate on who He is, where He came from, what He sacrificed, and why He did it. Have you repented of your sin and received Jesus as Savior and Lord? (See back for more info.) Are you living as if He is Lord of your life and bringing glory to God?

VV. 12-13: On the Christian Life: Think about the difference in working *for* your salvation and working *out* your salvation. How's your *spiritual* workout routine? How does *our* work cooperate with *God's* work? Think about the fact that in spite of bad things in life, God's purpose is good.

V.14: On Godly Relationships: Do you do everything without complaining and arguing? Are you easy to live with and work with even if you don't get your way? Are you pleasant in the midst of disagreements? Do you express mutual respect, appreciation, and love, no matter what?

VV.15-16: On Being a Good Testimony: Are you shining for Jesus? Are you living consistently? Do others see Jesus in you? Are you "good advertising" for Jesus? Would people be drawn toward Jesus by your words and deeds? Are you seeking and taking opportunities for "holding forth the word of life"?

HOW TO HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

GOD'S PLAN: LIFE ABUNDANT AND ETERNAL

God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. He created you to have a personal relationship with him in his forever family.

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

MAN'S PROBLEM: SEPARATION FROM GOD

Mankind chose to disobey God and falls short of God's holy standard of perfection. The Bible calls that sin. Man tries to bridge the gap through religion and good deeds, but man can never restore his relationship with God.

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The payment for sin is death (eternal separation from God)." Romans 3:23, 6:23

GOD'S REMEDY: THE CROSS OF CHRIST

God is too loving to ignore sinners but too holy to ignore sin. So, he sent Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins to the cross and rise again to bridge the gap between holy God and sinful man.

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

MAN'S RESPONSE: REPENTANCE AND FAITH

Salvation is a free gift bringing forgiveness and eternal life and a new relationship with God. Each of us must personally receive that gift through a prayer of repentance (confess you are a sinner) and faith (believe that Jesus, the sinless One, died for you and rose from the grave).

"By grace you are saved through faith – this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

A SUGGESTED PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner and I could never restore my relationship with you on my own. I believe that you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I want to receive your free gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Please come into my heart and life and save me from my sin. I want to make you my Savior and Lord. Amen.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

If you sincerely prayed a prayer like the one above, you have been "born again" and have become a child of God! (John 1:12, 1 John 5:11-13)

Steps to grow in your faith: read your Bible and pray daily; attend a Bible teaching Church; spend time with Christian friends.

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