



## Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Week 2 – Overcoming Barriers to Joy Philippians 1.12-21

#### **Philippians 1.21 'For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.'**

*This is like Paul's motto, describing his greatest passion in life. It is the secret to his resolute joy.*

1. Do you tend to look at Paul as too 'full on' in his faith? Someone to admire rather than someone to be imitate?
2. Do you think Paul's resolute joy would be possible if he didn't have this 'full-on' attitude to his faith?
3. If you were being really honest, how would you describe your motto in life: "For me to live is... ?, and to die is... ?"

#### **Overcoming Restrictions - Please read Philippians 1.12-14; Philippians 4.21-22**

4. What's Paul's secret to maintaining joy even when he faces restrictions in his life?
5. How can we apply this attitude to our present restrictions due to the pandemic?
6. What might it look like in your personal life if you were to imitate (not just admire) Paul like the believers did in Rome, Phil 1.v14 *'most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.'*?

#### **Overcoming Opposition - Please read Philippians 1.15-18a**

C.S. Lewis "The Screwtape Letters". "Screwtape" is the senior devil who is educating the junior demon "Wormwood" in effectively damaging the church. He says, "Wormwood, the church is fertile field if you keep them bickering over details, structure, money, property, personal hurts and misunderstandings. One thing you must prevent, don't ever let Christians look up and see the banner of victory flying, because you'll lose them -- never let them see the glory of God."

7. What's Paul's secret to maintaining joy even when he faces opposition from his Christian family?
8. How can we ensure in our church family that we don't just admire Paul's approach imitate it?

#### **Overcoming Uncertainty - Please read Philippians 1.18b-21; Romans 8.28; 2 Peter 1.2-3; Psalm 23.6**

*Famous Dale Carnegie quote – "Two men looked from prison bars, one saw mud the other saw stars." Paul's joy is a choice – it's an act of his will – I will continue to rejoice.*

9. What is the secret to Paul's Joy as he faces an uncertain future?
10. Can we be unhappy in our circumstances and yet be joyful in the Lord?

Please pray for each other for courage to exalt Christ in our bodies as we imitate Paul.

*"Even though we don't know what the future holds, we know who holds the future"*  
Corrie Ten Boom