



LEADERS GUIDE: 2/26/17 | GLORY AND JOY PART 5

1. What did you hear in the sermon that you could apply to your life this week? Why?

-We are experimenting with an opening question designed to stimulate more discussion on the sermon. Leaders can take this question and make it more broad (general things from the sermon) or keep it to the more narrow question above. The two points of application from the sermon were: 1. Fix your priorities on Paul's priority of faithfulness in all things, and 2. Repent from wrong priorities and low views of God. People's answers may very well be something other than these two, but I have included them to provide some easy reference points.

2. What did 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 3:5 and the sermon reveal about Paul's motivation for his ministry and churches? How does this shape the way you view church and personal ministry?

-These texts show the extremes of Paul's priorities: There is glory in a life lived in pursued faithfulness, and there is vanity in a life where faith is thrown to the wayside. Paul's emphasis in his church was to do whatever it took to hold them to the "faith once delivered" (Jude 1:3). Suffering was real, but Paul did not find it as a legitimate threat to true faith (1 Peter 4:12-13). In your own life how aware are you of the need to be faithful to the gospel in different areas of life? Where can we value lesser markers of success in regards to Christianity? Where have you seen life experiences produce a great amount of faith and trust in Jesus even when real pain and trial were present? When we understand the weight of faith and its necessity in our life, we should be more concerned and motivated to share the gospel with those around us.

3. Paul deals with the expectations the church should have of the Christian life. What were some of the first expectations you had about Christianity and how do those compare to the Biblical expectations of the Christian life?

-Some people expect conversion to Jesus to simply fix all their problems automatically! What are some common expectations you can think of which are less than what Paul presents in this text? What were your expectations and how have they changed over the years? If you had to communicate these expectations to someone what would you say? In this text we see that believers should expect trials, but they should also expect that their faith should endure.