

Discussion Guide for Philippians 1:12-18

1. Read Philippians 1:12-18 and briefly review the sermon outline. The target time is five minutes.

What parts of Sunday's lesson did you find helpful, enlightening, unclear or troubling?

2. Truth: God fills up our joy as we live with *gospel purpose*: living to help others to see the greatness of Christ. This gospel purpose shifts our attention off of ourselves and onto the singular goal of *Christ* being appreciated and honored. Gospel purpose also allows us to move beyond worry about what our critics think about us and to focus our energy on the singular goal promoting Christ's honor.

Read James 4:1-4

What are the motivations of the Christian critic?

How does this help us to deal with unjust criticism?

Read James 4:5-10

What the spiritual realities at work behind the scenes of Christian criticism?

How does God respond to the critic? How can this encourage you when you are the target of criticism?

How can we free ourselves from having a critical attitude?

Read 1 Peter 5:5-8

What are the opposite attitudes of being critical?

How do these verses allow us to rest when we are criticized?