



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Week of March 29, 2020*

*During this time that we are not able to meet together, please use these questions to stay connected as a church to meditate on the same sermon preached from God's Word this week. May this be a fruitful time for the building up of our church and for the spread of the gospel.*

### **Sermon Text**

Philippians 4:4-7

*If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiichurch.org/sermononline>*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. The Bible is very realistic in its depiction of the real life suffering and pain we face here on earth. 2 Corinthians 11 tells us that Paul endured incredible suffering, persecution, and punishment because of his faith in Christ. Yet in spite of the pain we endure in life, Paul encourages us as believers to rejoice! How is it possible to experience joy even in the midst of trouble? What does it mean to find our joy in Jesus? (For more insight, read Ephesians 2:1-10) Why can't negative circumstances take away a Christian's joy when that joy is found in Christ?
2. Pastor Dan said that *"the world had lost its grip on Paul. The world had nothing to offer a man like Paul - nothing it could give to him because he had already found something altogether better"* (For more insight, read Matthew 13:44) Pastor Dan also said, *"God may be using this time of quarantine and isolation to bring life to a screeching halt so that we might snap out of the things that keep us from truly living for Christ."* What is it in this world that you find greater joy in than in Christ? Your family and friends? Your home and possessions? Your work and investment portfolio?
3. The second command of this morning's passage is to let your reasonableness (gentle and gracious behavior) be known to everyone. Pastor Dan encouraged

us in these emotionally charged times, to not focus on people who don't treat you right but rather to focus on the real presence of Jesus Christ and on the fact that He is returning soon and will make all things right. The solution to the conflict in our homes is to realize how close Jesus Christ truly is. Sinclair Ferguson said, "*The people who are joyful are those who have been delivered from an obsession with themselves and their immediate circumstances.*" With this in mind, how can you use this week to invest in your relationship with Jesus Christ and spur your friends and/or family to do the same?

4. In the third command of the passage, Paul tells us to not be anxious about anything, but instead, we ought to pray. Time alone before God is what we need. Psalm 55:22 tells us to "*Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.*" When was the last time you prayed explicitly, and at length, over the things that worry you, trouble you, plague you? Did you take them out and recount them to God, one by one, laying your burdens on Him? How does admitting our own powerlessness and dependence upon God relieve our anxiety? What worries and cares do you need to take right now to the Lord in prayer?
5. Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter to the Philippians. He didn't know whether he would live or die but knowing his fate did not matter (Phil 1:21). All Paul needed to know was Christ and Him crucified. Knowing Christ gave Paul God's peace - a peace that surpassed all understanding. This is the kind of peace that Paul says is possible for you and I to have as well. What keeps us from experiencing this kind of peace? How can you experience this kind of peace in the midst of your own uncertainty and trials?