

HOPE

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

READ Philippians 1:27-30

SHARE words, phrases, truths that stuck out to you; any questions you have; new insights.

DISCUSS the passage together.

1/ "Gospel" - which means good news - is a key word in this passage. How does Paul use this word? How does the way he uses the word differ from how you might use the word?

2/ "Worthy" (27) does not mean you are *proving* yourself to God. It means that you are living in a way that aligns with the gospel. Galatians 2:14 says its possible to believe the gospel and not walk in step with it. What does it mean to live in step with the gospel?

3/ Point out all the community words and ideas in this verse. How does this challenge you as you think about being a part of Hope? What is encouraging about this picture of unity?

4/ What makes you frightened as a Christian (28)? How is Paul's encouragement helpful to you?

5/ Paul says that our faith is a gift in v. 29. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 for more. What is comforting about this truth, especially if you feel like your faith is weak?

6/ Paul says that our suffering has also been "granted to you... for Christ's sake." This insight on suffering in the Christian life is meant to comfort us. How could it comfort you? Read Romans 8:12-17 for a parallel passage on what it means to suffer in Christ.

7/ There are three constant dangers to living in step with the gospel: withdrawing, isolation, and panic. How does Paul address each in this passage? How do you see these dangers as tempting in your own life?

APPLY the text to your life (these questions from Redeemer NYC might help).

1/ How can I praise him?

2/ How can I confess my sins on the basis of this text?

3/ If this is really true, what wrong behavior, what harmful emotions or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?

4/ What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?

5/ God, why are you telling me this today?

PRAY together for the things you just shared, and also for anything else in your life.