Life Group Notes Philippians Introduction

9th October 2022

- Stuart started by telling a story of him having a moan – what one thing would you like to moan to the group about this week?!

- More positively, what have you got to be grateful for this week?

- Stuart told the story of how we came to be studying the book of Philippians and the phrase 'Joy in the Journey'. God spoke to Stuart through Louise, his friends around the dinner table and eventually through a stranger on the train. How good are you at listening to God challenge and direct you? What makes you more or less open to that?

- In Acts 16 we read about the birth of the Philippian church. It's an exciting story and you may want to re-read it again as a group. What one thing particularly struck you from it? Here is a shortened list of things Stuart drew out!

    o The Holy Spirit leading Paul and Silas to Philippi (and preventing them from going to other places)
    o God opening the heart of Lydia
    o The slave girl being set free and the 2 Kingdoms at work
    o Praying and worshipping in prison
    o Miracles!
    o The diversity of the early church (Greek, Asian, Roman, rich, poor, educated, slave, free etc.)

- Paul was writing Philippians from in prison. Think back to the image of the chains over the words joy on the stage. How do we have joy in the journey?

- Paul writes to 'the saints'. Do you feel more like: A sinner, A sinner who is sometimes saintly, a saint who sometimes sins or an outright saint? Why is this identity language important?

- Paul's blessing over the church is 'Grace and Peace'. Read 2Peter 3:18. How do we grow in grace? How does this type of grace differ from saving grace?

- The peace Paul speaks of here is wider than just 5 minutes peace and quiet. It is similar to the Jewish idea of Shalom. What is this type of peace and how does it go beyond our circumstances?

- How do we receive the peace of God?

- What is the significance of being 'in' Christ? We can talk about being 'in' trouble, 'in' love, 'in' chains like Paul. How does being 'in' Christ supersede all of these?