



SERMON NOTES

"Joyride: Finding Joy in Places it Shouldn't be Found"
Week Seven: Power of Persecution
Philippians 1:28-30

1. Opposition is a **SIGN** (v. 28)

- A. It is a sign to the **OFFENDER**
- My reaction to opposition has the power to be used of God to reveal **HIS** glory to the very ones inflicting **MY** pain
- B. It is a sign to the **OFFENDED**

2. Opposition is a **GIFT** (v. 29)

- A. A gift for **OUR** sake
- Suffering is not something to be **AVOIDED**, but to be **EMBRACED**
- B. A gift for **HIS** sake

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LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of October 20, 2019

MY STORY

What was one of your favorite sporting events that you've ever attended?

Who was your "arch-nemesis" when you were growing up? Why?

Was there any one thing that you most agreed, or disagreed, with from this week's message? What was it and why?

DIGGING DEEPER

This week's message was about persecution. Talk about a time that you faced persecution because of your faith.

Read Phil. 1:28. What are some things that we do that show that we are allowing persecution (adversaries) to "terrify" us?

Who is your "go-to" person when you face adversaries/persecution? Why?

How does going through spiritual conflict help us grow in Christ? Read James 1:3-4.

Paul said that a believer's reaction to persecution is a sign to the persecutor. Josh talked about Paul and the Philippian jailor as examples of persecutors that turned to Christ because of a believer's response to persecution. Can you think of someone that used to be hostile to the Gospel, but is now a believer?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4 and talk about how it is similar to Philippians 1:28-30.

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. These verses tell us of some positive things that come out of difficult times. What are they?

Paul said that suffering is a gift. Talk about some things that you have learned during times of suffering.

TAKING IT HOME

Do you know of anyone that is currently facing persecution? Read Hebrews 13:3 and talk about how we can heed this verse.

Throughout this series, we've talked about "finding joy in places it shouldn't be found." What is your biggest "takeaway" from the last 7 weeks?

Take time, as a group, to pray for our missionary family that is going to Iraq and other families that are in difficult countries. Also, pray for the persecuted believers around the world.