

Week 36 – Questions to Consider

Philippians 2-4, Colossians 1-2

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Fall activity or childhood memory?

1. When a parent considers the outcome of their children's life to date, what would bring them joy? What would bring them grief? What sort of characteristics in Christians brings joy according to Philippians 2:2? What sort of characteristics would bring about grief?
2. Consider the statement: "Pride is the root of all sin." Agree or disagree? Why?
3. Read Philippians 2:3-4. How would you define or describe the following terms: "selfish ambition," "conceit", & "humility"? Why is looking at Jesus' incarnation (coming to earth as a human) and death the key to Christian humility and unity?
4. Why is doing "all things without grumbling or disputing" a counter-cultural way to "shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:14-15)? Why is this so hard?
5. Paul aims to send Timothy to the church at Philippi, describing him as "genuinely concerned for your welfare"? (Philippians 2:20) Who has God sent into your life as a similar blessing? Who do you think God is sending you to be a blessing to?
6. What kind of warnings did your parents give you growing up? Why? What sort of people did they caution you about? Why do you think Paul gave such a firm command to "look out for the dogs... evildoers" who were teaching a works-based salvation? (Philippians 3:2). What sort of false teachings should the modern-day church be on the watch for?
7. How easy is it to drive forward while looking in the rear-view mirror? Why is it dangerous? Why does Satan try to distract us with our past? What does God tell us to focus on in Philippians 3:13-14? What helps you to focus forward when Satan attacks you with past failures, hurts, and sins?
8. Why is peacemaking hard? Should it be? When Paul urges Euodia and Syntyche to "agree in the Lord", why is the fact that their "names are in the book of life" (Philippians 4:2-3) such a helpful reminder?
9. Read Philippians 4:6. Why is this such a popular verse? In what ways do you find yourself becoming anxious, stressed, or depressed? Why? What does this verse say is the next step when faced with worry? How have you encountered the "peace of God which surpasses all understanding" in past situations of stress?

More questions at: www.southfork.church/2022-discussion-questions

How to Be Bold & Courageous in Crazy Days

Philippians 1:12–24 (ESV)

In Crazy Days... See A _____ in Suffering

[12] I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, [13] so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. [14] And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

In Crazy Days... Be a B _____ Believer

- Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."
- Acts 4:29 "Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness"
- Ephesians 6:19–20 "also [pray] for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak"
- Acts 28:30–31 "proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."

In Crazy Days... Watch for F _____ Motives but Stay T _____ to the Gospel Message

[15] Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. [16] The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. [17] The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. [18] What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

In Crazy Days... Be Strengthened by the S_____

Yes, and I will rejoice, [19] for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, [20] as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

In Crazy Days.... Know Your Ultimate Deliverance is Found in Jesus A_____

[21] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

In Crazy Days... Try to D_____ When to Be Silent and When to Speak Up

- Proverbs 26:4–5 “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. [5] Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.”
- Matthew 27:11–14 “Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Jesus said, ‘You have said so.’ [12] But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. [13] Then Pilate said to him, ‘Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?’ [14] But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.”
- 1 Peter 3:15–16 “always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, [16] having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”

In Crazy Days... Keep W_____ for Jesus

[22] If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. [23] I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. [24] But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

In Crazy Days... Be Courageous into the F_____

2 Corinthians 5:6–9 “So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, [7] for we walk by faith, not by sight. [8] Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. [9] So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. (ESV)

- **South Fork in 1808, 1845, 2022?**

In Crazy Days.... Know How to Respond to the Most Common Arguments for _____

1 Thessalonians 2:1–4 “For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. [2] But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. [3] For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, [4] but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.”

Wed., Sept 14 - Abortion

- Vote “Yes for Life” on Constitutional Amendment #2 November 8th and approve a Pro-Life amendment to our state’s Constitution.
- Attend Foster/Adoption/Respite Care - Saturday September 17 9-11am in the Fellowship Hall with Debbie Fowler

Wed., Sept 21 - LGBTQ+

Wed., Sept 28 - Atheism/Moral Relativism

This Next Week’s New Testament Reading Plan:

Week 37: Colossians 3-4, 1 Thessalonians 1-3

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2022-bible-reading-plan

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In Crazy Days.... Know Your Ultimate Deliverance is Found in Jesus Alone

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In Crazy Days... Try to Discern When to Be Silent and When to Speak Up

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