

STUDY NOTES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Complete(d) Joy” on 4/8/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

BONDSERVANTS TO CHRIST

Paul and Timothy always served out of love and joy! They were willingly bonded to Christ—not to people, not to the church, not to a specific job, not to anything or anyone but Christ. Bondservants willingly bonded themselves to an individual.

Bonding ourselves in service to Christ is the perfect freedom.

- *If you were to look at your life right now, to what would you honestly say that you are bonding yourself?*

CHRIST STARTS AND FINISHES THE WORK

Paul says that he is confident that Christ will perfect the work—or complete the work. Paul doesn’t hope it will happen. He is confident that it will happen. We bond ourselves to Christ because he promises to complete the work that he has started in us.

- *How do you think someone like Paul could be so confident that Jesus both starts and finishes work in people’s lives?*

- *How can you be confident that Jesus will do the same in your life?*
- *Talk with each other about how easy it is to try to take over for yourselves the work Jesus is doing in your life.*

TEARING DOWN IN ORDER TO BUILD

In order for God to work in our lives, he may have to deconstruct some things that we have built ourselves. That’s why the work might feel so hard and difficult—because you’re trying to do things only God can do.

God might have to tear it all down, but the good thing is God finishes what he starts

- *How has God torn down some things in your life that you’ve built for yourself rather than letting him build it?*
- *What did you learn from that experience?*

EXPERIENCING REAL KNOWLEDGE

Growing deeper in your relationship with Christ doesn’t mean just reading and learning new things. Growing deeper means experiencing God. Sure, it is important to learn new things, but it can’t stop there.

- *What are ways that you have learned to experience God?*
- *You take in information through reading the Bible, going to church, reading books, listening to podcasts, and etc.) How can you **work out** the information that you take in about God?*
- *Pray with each other that we’d all experience God in fresh ways.*