"To Live is Christ"
Philippians 1:12-26

Into the Lesson:

What are some of the "Bad News/Good News" scenarios or jokes you have heard? For example:
Defense Attorney-The bad news is your blood was found all over the crime scene.
Defendant-What's the good news?
Defense Attorney-Your cholesterol levels are good.

How would you paraphrase Philippians 1:12 into a Bad News/Good news statement?

Into the Word:

Reread Philippians 1:12-26 and underline or highlight key words or phrases (use a different colored highlighter if needed)

Review Paul's "resume" from II Corinthians 12:23-28 (written about 5 years prior to this letter) to understand his point of reference.

How do you account for the difference between Paul's response to Barnabas and John Mark in Acts 15:37-40 and those he refers to in vv.15-18?

In his sermon, Sam pointed out that Job 13:13-16 was Paul's source of deliverance. How could he have had a sense of deliverance while in prison?

Respond to Sam's statement, "his (*Paul's*) hope is in the ultimate sense of deliverance…"

Contrast Sam's statement, "hope is the driving source of Paul's joy", with what we read of Paul/Saul in Acts 9:1. What made the difference?

Respond to Sam's statement, "it may not always feel like it, but it is a glorious privilege to participate in fruitful labor".

What constitutes "fruitful labor"?

Into Life:

How do we see indications in our culture of the reversal of Paul's key phrase, "to live is gain…"?

How has this mindset caused a twisted world view? And how has it attempted to create a culture of fear and shame?

How has the "culture of death" (abortion rights and euthanasia) that seems to prevail thrown a wrench in our efforts to share the hope we have in Christ?

Do you agree or disagree with Sam's proclamation, "the Body of Christ is essential to our faith" (we'll talk later if you disagree)?

How can our participation in "fruitful labor" enhance and strengthen the community of believers?

What would our lives, and the life of the church look like if we were to strive for the "reciprocal nature of life in Christ"?

…but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

-Jeremiah 9:24