

# Community Group Discussion Guide



Sunday, December 6, 2020

## THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

In this week's passage, Paul commands the church to rejoice in the Lord and contrasts true worship, which alone produces joy, with the false teaching of legalism.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

- Why can Paul command the church to rejoice in the Lord (verse 1)? What is joy, and what is its source (Psalm 32:11, 33:1)? Is the Lord Jesus both the *occasion* and *substance* of your joy?
- Explain how the joy of the Lord safeguards us (verses 2-3)?
- How do bad theology and false teachers rob us of joy? How do we sustain our joy in all circumstances?
- Why does Paul describe the Judaizers as dogs, evildoers, and mutilators of the flesh (verse 2)? What external ritual did they depend on for favor with God, and why is it insufficient to save (Jeremiah 4:4; Romans 2:28-29; Galatians 5:6)?
- What's the difference between the gospel and legalism, the heresy that Paul warns the church about?
- In verse 3, what does Paul list as three distinguishing marks of a true worshiper of Jesus Christ?
- What does it mean to worship "by the Spirit" (John 4:21-24; John 16:13-15)? Do you rely daily on the Spirit to empower you to live a worshipful, God-glorify life (Romans 12:1)?
- What does Paul mean by "confidence in the flesh" (verse 3)? What are you prone to trust or add to the gospel as your source of joy, hope, confidence, identity, salvation?