

**Philippians (2 of 8)**  
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, August 18th, 2024**



**Series Focus:** In his final days on earth, the Apostle Paul wrote a heartfelt letter to the church in Philippi from a prison cell in Rome. What does it look like to be faithful to Jesus in a world of competing allegiances? Is it possible for the church to remain calm, be at peace, and live with joy in a society that is seriously lacking it? And how do we live as “citizens of heaven” in a world seemingly going to hell? In this series, we will be encouraged to view all of life through the lens of the cross and to live out our faith together in humility, service, and love—all the while anticipating the Lord’s return.

**Sermon Title:** Our Sufferings in Gospel Perspective

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:18-28,38-39; Philippians 1:12-26; Colossians 1:24

**Sermon Focus:** Paul said that his “chains” were “for the sake of Christ” and the progress of the gospel. This ought to challenge the way we understand our own sufferings and cause us to be slow to judge the hardships of others. In the second message of our series, Pastor David invites us to put our sufferings in gospel perspective so that we can live for Christ, bless others, and trust God in all things.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Begin by having each person read Philippians 1:12-26 silently. What words or phrases stand out to you? After a few minutes, have someone read it aloud for the group. Share your initial thoughts and reactions with your small group.
2. Pastor David pointed out that the background and context of Philippians is really important for understanding the letter. How are you already seeing that is true? How has the background information helped to bring things into focus?
3. Why do you think that Christians in America have largely not seen or understood the subversive nature and political implications within the New Testament? For example, how does it change things to know that Paul is contrasting Jesus and the Kingdom of God with Roman power and politics (e.g., "Jesus is Lord")?
4. Paul sees his sufferings through the lenses of the gospel of Jesus (i.e., Phil. 1:21-26). How would you describe how he views his trials and "chains? How does he view the prospect of dying? Also, what are your "chains" and present sufferings? How is God inviting you to see your struggles as divine opportunities?
5. Paul appeared solely concerned that Christ was honored in his life and that the gospel was advancing in the world. Would you say that you live for Christ and the progress of the gospel where you live, work, shop, and play? Is Christ at the center of your life like this? What other things tend to compete for the center?
6. Read Romans 8:18-28. This passage also reveals Paul's attitude and posture as he awaits his trial in Rome. What is something in your life that you need to give to God and trust that he can/will use it for your good and his Kingdom? Be honest and specific as you share with your group where you are in your journey.
7. How else did God speak to you through this message? How has he been speaking to you through your small group conversation? Please take some time to discuss and then close in prayer together as you lift each other up in the Lord.