



Culture says “whatever” as a way of meaning nothing matters, but Christians say “whatever” because everything matters. Disciples of Jesus do not divide life into sacred and secular. Following Jesus is a 24/7 commitment, and this series explores what that looks like.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 This message focuses on the second half of the first chapter of Philippians. So, read **Philippians 1:12-30** to get the context as you begin this study. What is one thing that resonates with you from this passage?

2 THE “WHATEVER LIFE” is consistent no matter what. Paul wrote this letter from prison after having been illegally arrested. Yet 19 times he mentions joy, gladness, or rejoicing. Rick noted that his favorite phrase in the text is from **Philippians 1:18**, when Paul says, **“But what does it matter?”** Why is that phrase so significant and what encourages you about Paul’s example?

3 THE “WHATEVER LIFE” SAYS... *Life is hard...*

Followers of Jesus shouldn't be surprised when they face hard times since Jesus even said, “*In this world you will have trouble*” (**John 16:33**). Paul experienced his share of trouble but his source of happiness didn't depend on how most people keep score. Look at **Philippians 1:12, 13, 18, 20, and 21**. What do these verses tell us about where Paul found his joy even in the midst of hard times? To what degree do you share Paul's passion for the gospel (especially when life is hard)?

4 THE “WHATEVER LIFE” SAYS... But *Jesus is Lord*...

Paul believed any circumstance he was going through could be an opportunity to display Christ for those who were willing to look for it (see

Philippians 1:12). Share an example of a time you had an opportunity to display Christ in the midst of hard circumstances. How did God use it to bring good out of a bad situation?

5 THE “WHATEVER LIFE” SAYS... So I will rejoice... When Paul says that he will **“continue to rejoice” (1:18)**, he is not saying he would have chosen what he was going through. He is saying that nothing he is going through can keep him from choosing joy. Why was that the case for Paul and how is that also true from your personal experience? How did the video testimony of Jake and Alyssa Moore inspire you to continue to rejoice?

6 THE “WHATEVER LIFE” stays on mission no matter what. Paul was not preoccupied with his circumstances; he was preoccupied with exalting Christ *whatever* his circumstances were. He knew he could seek the kingdom of God wherever he was, whoever he was with, whenever he wanted, *whatever* he was going through. What is one thing you can do this week to make sure you stay on mission no matter what happens?

Final thoughts:

Reflect on these words from Paul as you go through your week, ***“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ”*** Spend some time in prayer.

