Potential Discussion Questions Message: Engage JOY, Pt 15 (7-23-17) Unity Buster: Sidetracked Transformation (Phil. 2:12-13)

- 1. Discuss your observations and responses to Spurgeon's statement: "A selfish man in trouble is exceedingly hard to comfort, because the springs of his comfort lie entirely within himself, and when he is sad all his springs are dry." Have you ever experienced this?
- 2. How would you explain "work out your own salvation" to a new believer? What is important to avoid in this process? How do believers stumble into the "wrong workout"?
- 3. Read 2 Peter 1:3-8. How do Paul's and Peter's words reinforce each other? What stands out most to you? Where are you most convicted or challenged?
- 4. Discuss the impact on unity when believers do not accept their responsibility to be diligent in pursuing transformation? How where have you seen or experienced this? Why and how does mutual diligence in personal transformation encourage unity?
- 5. What is your response to the idea of "a long obedience in the same direction"? From the context of Philippians, discuss some things that might interrupt or sidetrack believers in their transformation.
- 6. How might appropriate *fear and trembling* motivate and propel diligence in transformation?
- 7. Verse 13 is a great encouragement. Read it again. How does it speak to you?
- 8. How do you orient your life and worldview to be *for the pleasure of God*? What is the significance of Paul adding "good" to modify "pleasure"?
- 9. Which of the following is more likely to trip you up: being flaky, lazy, cocky, or sloppy? How can you guard yourself from that sidetrack?
- 10. What in these verses strikes you or raises a question that has not been discussed?
- 11. What in this study gives you the most to think about? What will you do with it this week? How would you like others to pray for you in regard to this text?