

*Following Christ in the Crucible: How God Transforms Us through Testing – Final Week*

## ***Finding Joy in the Crucible***

*Paul's journey in the crucible– 2 Corinthians 2:12-17*

**Introduction:** To find joy in the difficult “crucible experiences” of life we must hold two things in tension: the reality of the pain and the conviction that God will bring meaning out of the pain and we adapt to the crucible by faith.

### **1. *TENSION POINT #1 – Joy in the crucible begins by recognizing and accepting that we are in a crucible. 2 Corinthians 2:12-13***

- A. Paul writes 2 Corinthians 2:12-4:18 to explain how the Christian life really works.
- B. Paul models the various problems that confront us in the Christian life.
- C. Paul is a picture of what life is like for us.

### **2. *TENSION POINT #2 – Joy in the crucible comes as we find God's meaning in our pain. 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3***

- A. Paul's strategy in this passage.
- B. Joy comes through \_\_\_\_\_, 2:14a
- C. Joy comes through understanding \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_, 2:14b
- D. Joy comes through delighting in our \_\_\_\_\_ as a fragrance, 2:15
- E. Joy comes from accepting our \_\_\_\_\_ as a fragrance, 2:14c, 16a
- F. Joy comes from deeper levels of \_\_\_\_\_, 2:16b-17