

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Series

Philippians

Reading 1

Isaiah 12:1-6

Reading 2

Philippians 1:12-26

Joy In Suffering

1. Paul's Suffering

Paul suffers for the gospel. 2 Corinthians 11:24-28
He is writing from house arrest in Rome.

2. Our Suffering

We suffer pain for the gospel in different ways.
Any physical, emotional or mental pain/anxiety from
living for Christ is suffering.

Are you suffering for the gospel? Romans 8:17
We find this hard because of a change in worldview
20th century - "do the right thing, even if it hurts"
21st century - "do whatever makes you happy"
We now culturally avoid suffering/see it as wrong

3. Three Reasons for Paul's Joy

- i) Unbelievers are hearing about Jesus (v13)
- ii) Believers are growing in confidence & proclaiming
the gospel (v14)
 - Paul can do it - so can we effect
 - Paul's willing to suffer - the gospel must be true
- iii) Christ is being preached (v15-18)
 - People are hearing about Jesus even through
'preachers' with bad motives stirring up trouble.

Paul is joyful because the gospel is advancing.
Is that what makes you joyful?
We can find momentary joys in this world.
But true joy is found in eternal things.
God hasn't promised our lives to be free of suffering.
He has promised that His Kingdom will come.

Notes

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4. The Deeper Reason for Paul's Joy

Paul is faced with the realities of life and death.
He can have joy because of how he sees life & death.
The #1 thing for Paul is that Christ would be exalted.
Therefore he can continue to live in service/suffering
If that means Christ is exalted.
A life truly lived isn't to have enjoyed all the
pleasures of this world.
A life truly lived is a life of suffering for Jesus' glory.
And to die is gain because the best is yet to come.
Heaven puts our earthly sufferings in perspective.
Will you find joy in living for Christ?
How can we make this shift?

5. Changing Our View

Be in the Scriptures (you become what you consume)
Reflect on life & death (particularly heaven)
Reflect on the advancement of the gospel
Choose to suffer (set a goal)
Read a biography

Notes

Questions/Reflections :

How are you suffering for the gospel?

What brings you joy?

How could you make a shift to finding joy in suffering? What do you need to do?