



SUNDAY MAY 24, 2020

PHILIPPIANS

#JOY: finding joy in suffering

*And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. ¹³ For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. ¹⁵ It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. ¹⁶ They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. ¹⁷ Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. ¹⁸ But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. ¹⁹ For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. ²⁰ For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. ²¹ For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. ²² But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. ²³ I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴ But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. ²⁵ Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. ²⁶ And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me. ²⁷ Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. ²⁸ Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. ²⁹ For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ³⁰ We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it. ~ **Philippians 1:12-30***

Joy is an internal choice of hope based on my belief in Jesus Christ.

FIVE PRINCIPALS THE APOSTLE PAUL LIVED BY, WHICH ENABLED HIM TO MAINTAIN HIS JOY IN THE LORD!

1. PAUL LOOKED BEYOND HIS CIRCUMSTANCES TO SEE GOD'S RESULTS.

*And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here **has helped to spread the Good News**. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. And most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ~ **Philippians 1:12-14***

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ~ **Romans 8:23***

*Don't be dejected and sad, **for the joy of the Lord is your strength!**" ~ Nehemiah*

2. PAUL DIDN'T DEPEND ON THE APPROVAL OF OTHERS

*It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. ¹⁶ They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. ¹⁷ Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, **intending to make my chains more painful to me**. ¹⁸ But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so **!** **rejoice**. And I will continue **to rejoice**. ~ **Philippians 1:15-18***

a) Three types of people we all have to deal with

- The Critics
- The Competitors
- The Schemers

3. PAUL TRUSTED GOD TO HELP HIM OUT OF DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

*For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. ~ **Philippians 1:19***

- Paul understood the power of having prayer partners
- Paul knew the Holy Spirit abided in him.

Memory Verse:

*“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power
and of love and of a sound mind.”
2 Timothy 1:7*

4. PAUL LOOK BEYOND THE TEMPORARY TO SEE THE ETERNAL.

*“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. We fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen.”
~ 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

*For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.
~ Philippians 1:21*

a) We must live by three principals to have the same mindset as Paul

- We need a lifetime commitment to ministry.
- We must have a desire to be with Jesus.
- We must live with unselfish love for others

5. PAUL LOOKED BEYOND THE BAD NEWS TO SEE THE GOOD NEWS.

For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ~ Philippians 1:29

Jesus said...

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ~ Matthew 5:11-12

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ~ Hebrews 12:2

Next Steps

- Become a follower of Jesus today
- Memorize 2 Timothy 1:7
- Read the letter to the Philippians once a day for the next 30 days
- Go out of your way to serve someone this week
- Join us on Wednesdays at 12pm for prayer on Facebook Live
- Join an online connect group (Inlc.org/connect)