

The Joy of Living
Philippians 2:14-30

Compelling Purity, Compelling Joy, and Two Examples

- I. The joy of missional living cultivates in us compelling purity. (v. 15-17)
 - a. Blameless has to do with what the Christian is in the world.
 - b. Innocent has to do with what the Christian is in him/herself.
 - c. Without blemish has to do with what the Christian is in the sight of God.
 - d. This purity is compelling in its contrast and purposeful in its mission.
 - i. It provides direction in a directionless world.
 - ii. It provides light in a dark world.
 - e. Purity is gained in holding fast to and holding forth the Word of Life.
 - f. Paul sees his labor (*kopian* – labor to the point of utter exhaustion) as directly related to the Philippians’ purity and unity.
 - g. He is more than willing to sacrifice himself to see them succeed in the endeavor of faith.

- II. The joy of missional living creates more joy. (v. 18)
 - a. Paul’s call to the Philippians is more than a suggestion. It is an imperative.
 - b. Flourishing in purity and unity, working out salvation in these ways, will lead to tremendous joy.
 - c. The call to joy is important not just because it is the natural result of a heart of gratitude, but also because joy can’t help but explode out of us.
 - d. While joy is certainly internalized, it cannot stay that way.

- III. The Example of Timothy of missional living, purity, and joy
 - a. Timothy set an example in compassion.
 - b. Timothy set an example in companionship.

- IV. The Example of Epaphroditus of missional living, purity, and joy
- a. Epaphroditus set an example in five-fold faithfulness.
 - i. Brother – This identifier is a result of his adoption into the family of God.
 - ii. Fellow worker – This identifier put Paul and Epaphroditus on an even playing field. Both are essential to the mission though they serve in different ways.
 - iii. Fellow soldier – This identifier reveals a truth about serving Jesus and that is, our mission is a battle.
 - iv. Messenger – This identifier shows the sentness of Epaphroditus.
 - v. Minister – This identifier reveals that service is a key element in fulfilling the mission.
 - b. Epaphroditus set an example in sacrificial service.