

Sermon Notes: Philippians 1:1-2

“The best lesson in joy I know of is the letter to the Philippians.” Charles Spurgeon

“If you want to know how to have joy when everything seems against you, live in Philippians.” John Piper

“We plan, but God decides. And it is always better that He decides.” Martyn Lloyd Jones

Big Idea: Joy has an address and it’s “in Jesus Christ.”

Outline:

What does it mean to be “in Christ”?

How does being “in Christ” bring joy?

What if I am “in Christ” but struggling to find joy?

“The fundamental meaning of ‘saint’ in the New Testament is not moral perfection but belonging to God. Paul’s use of the word ‘saints’ emphasizes consecration before conduct.” John Stott

“Paul calls Christians saints to remind them that their deepest identity is not what they struggle with, but who they belong to. You don’t live holy lives in order to become saints; you live holy lives because you already are saints in Christ.” Sam Allberry

“The ultimate purpose of the Christian life is not happiness, but holiness; joy is the fruit of holiness.” Martyn Lloyd Jones

“Self-centeredness doesn’t lead to happiness; it leads to anxiety, anger, and emptiness.” Tim Keller