

Philippians 3 – 13 November 2022

“Reasons For Joy”

Introduction

*Remember this is 1 of 4 Prison letters written late in Paul’s life circa 61AD

*From Chap 1 we’ve seen that all Paul’s interested in at this stage of his life is:

*#1 – *Fellowship with believers*

*#2 – *Advancing the Gospel*

*Chap 2 was an intense look at having the *humility* of Jesus Christ

*If Chap 3 is summed up in one word it’s *JOY*

*Happiness is based on happenings, but Christian joy is a state of delight from right relationship with God!

*In fact, eternal life is pictured as entering into the joy of the Lord (Matt 25)

***Here’s 3 reasons for the Christian life to be joyful**

1st reason for joy: B/c we're removed from the works-based efforts of our past (Vs 1-8)

Read Vs 1a

1. “Finally” is a transition not an ending
 - a. It means ‘*as for the rest*’
2. This directive is the tone for the whole chapter

Read Vs 1b

1. He's not bothered by reminding them of these things – it's good for them, so he doesn't mind

Read Vs 2

1. Watch out for those that are like fleshly beasts
 - a. Bible speaks of them as ‘returning to their own vomit’
2. Their work is only harmful & will cut you

Read Vs 3

1. Remember the covenant of circumcision
 - a. To cut away the flesh was physical sign of spiritual reality of removing the sinful flesh

2. The truly circumcised are the ones that worship & rejoice in Jesus' work, not our own
 - a. Read Rom 2:25, 28-29 – Circumcision is no good unless you keep the *whole* law
 - b. Read Gal 5:6 & Rom 3:30 – God judges us *all* by Jesus, not works
 - c. Read Gal 6:15 – We *all* need to become born again

Read Vs 4-6

1. If there was a man that could be saved by being perfect it was Paul

Read Vs 7

2. He's not just given up on works, but considers the time spent doing them as wasted time

Read Vs 8

1. Are we known as a walking Bible, a walking Baseball nerd, a walking hobby expert, etc.?
2. Quitting self-effort & depending on Christ is to press into knowing Him as the preeminent thing!

2nd reason for joy: B/c we know Jesus Christ experientially today (Vs 9-12)

Read Vs 9

1. What is it to “be found in Him”?
 - a. Read II Cor 5:17 – “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation...”
 - b. Rom 10:9-10a - We confess the words, “I’m trusting Christ’s work of the cross & His righteousness is what grants me eternal life”
2. This is joy – a state of delight from right relationship with God!

Read Vs 10

1. We haven’t just left a life of self-effort, but we’ve entered a life of growing in Christ!
2. Power of His resurrection – To examine the value & ability of the resurrection to effect change
3. Fellowship of His sufferings
 - a. Read Rom 6:3-6 - There is a death or a letting go of the old life

b. Read Gal 5:24 – *affections* is the same as *sufferings* in Phil 3:10

4. This makes us like Jesus - He died to self-will

Read Vs 11

1. “So then somehow I can also hope to be raised from the dead”
2. “That I may mature into a deep understanding of the resurrection of the dead”
3. Examining power of His resurrection, brings us to attaining the knowledge of our resurrection

Read Vs 12

1. Be maturing, but know we haven't perfectly attained an understanding of Christ's power
2. Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost and now we spend our lives pursuing Him
 - a. Not a linear thing but as a dog chasing tail
 - i. It's a cyclical thing w/ us & Christ

3rd reason for joy: B/c we know the high calling of our citizenship is forever (Vs 13-21)

Read Vs 13-14

1. There IS a mark (goal) that we're shooting for
 - a. To be made like Christ
 - b. Wonderful privilege to have this high calling
2. How do we get there?
 - a. Mindset: Forget things from our past like self effort at being good or right with God - forget having confidence in self
 - b. Action: Moving forward with God-honoring actions today

Read Vs 15

1. This is a way to know if you're maturing in your Christianity
2. If you don't see this mindset working within a Christian you love...give it time, God will work

Read Vs 16

1. To what degree we know Jesus, arrange life to live for that high calling & press higher

Read Vs 17-19

1. Be an example for others to follow
2. Don't be one that serves self gain, & reputation
 - a. That makes you an enemy of Christ Jesus
 - b. He gave His effort for our gain

Read Vs 20a

1. *Conversation* atypical word *anastrophe* (behavior), but it's single use *politeuma* (citizenship)
2. This would make sense to these Philippians who were citizens of Rome but living far away
3. Paul was proud of his Roman citizenship but it was nothing compared to his heavenly one
4. We're in a space & culture but our personal mind space & sub-culture are different

Read Vs 20b-21

1. We rejoice that one day all our pain and all our fears will be no more –all sinful tendencies erased
2. Read Heb 12:2 - He despised shame of our sinful environment for the joy that was set to come soon

Conclusion

Christians have real reasons to be filled with joy!

1. **We no longer strive for a clean conscience**
2. **We know Jesus experientially day by day**
3. **We know the high calling of our citizenship & it's forever**

We want you to know Jesus & have your sins washed away!

“What is our hope or joy or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming. For ye are our glory & joy!” (I Thes 2:19-20)

Jesus can keep you in His joy throughout your life!

Jesus is the one “that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.” (Jude 24)