

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Grace for the Journey

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
April 12, 2026



We are all searching for joy, but at times it feels elusive doesn't it?

- Happiness depends on happenings but joy depends on Christ.

Philippians 1:1-2 (NLT) "This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. ² May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace."

The journey towards joy begins when we are...

1) Centred in grace & peace.

² "May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace."

Are you striving... or receiving?

Where do you need to receive grace & peace today?

2) Connected in community.

Paul writes...^{1b} "...to all of God's holy people... including the church leaders and deacons."

2 Corinthians 5:21(NIV) "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

**Who are you walking with in your faith? Are you truly connected in community?
How are you motivating others to "love and good deeds"?
What steps can you take to grow as a servant leader within our church family?**

3) Committed to serve Christ.

¹ "Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus."

- In the ancient world, a slave (*doulos*) meant someone who was fully owned by another.
- To be a *doulos* of Christ means no divided allegiance.
- Unlike forced slavery, this is a chosen surrender.

**Where do you need to surrender to Christ as your Lord & Master today?
Where can you take a step towards serving Christ wholeheartedly?**

Big Idea: Joy can flow when we receive the grace & peace that comes from Jesus.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Grace for the Journey
#1 of 15 - April 12, 2026**

Context

1) How does our culture describe and pursue happiness? What is the difference between happiness and true joy?

2) Why is joy elusive at times?

Observation

3) Read Philippians 1:1-2. What do you notice about how Paul greets the Philippian church? Why is it significant that he mentions grace and peace?

4) How is joy rooted in grace and peace? How does Paul's experience bear this out?

Meaning

5) Why is being connected in Christ-centred community necessary for us to experience joy as people?

6) Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What does it mean to "motivate one another to love and good deeds"? Who does this for you? How do we do this for one another practically speaking?

7) What does Paul mean that he and Timothy are "slaves of Christ"? How does this challenge us as we seek to follow Jesus Christ?

Application

8) Where do you need to receive grace & peace today?

9) Who are you walking with in your faith? Are you truly connected in community?

10) What steps can you take to grow as a servant leader within our church family?

11) Where do you need to surrender to Christ as your Lord & Master today? Where can you take a step towards serving Christ wholeheartedly?



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