



GRACE CHURCH

Message Notes

You need define your reality by joy instead of allowing your reality to define your joy

From prison, Paul wrote a letter that contains the word “joy” or “rejoice” 19 times

Joy is not the product of my circumstances

Philippians 2:12-13 ESV — Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

We work out our salvation, not work for our salvation

We are saved individually, but we work out our salvation together

We need each other! Don't let social distancing become your lifestyle

Philippians 2:14 ESV — Do all things without grumbling or disputing...

Our job is not to provide commentary on how dark the world is—our job is to shine a light in the darkness

Philippians 2:15-16 ESV — That you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life...

We are to be blameless and innocent in the middle of 2020.

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Scott reminded us that Paul was imprisoned in Rome, deprived of his freedom and suffering, yet he writes about having joy. What will it take to bring you joy?
2. We can experience joy in the midst of a difficult season because of the love of Christ. Have you ever experienced joy in the midst of a difficult time? If so, what did that look like for you?
3. If you are in a season where you feel that you are lacking joy, what practical steps could you take to place yourself in a position to receive joy no matter your circumstances?
4. Pastor Scott used Victor Frankl as an example to remind us that we have the power to choose our own attitude, despite our circumstances. What attitude do you normally turn to when dealing with a difficult situation or time?