



INTRODUCTION

Finding Joy in Uncertain Times—Part 4

These days, we are bombarded with news stories and social media messages related to the pandemic, cyberattacks, global warming, the divided nation, etc., etc. These are certainly troubling and trying times. So how do we find joy when there is so much uncertainty and suffering in the world?

Learn how to remain joyful as we follow the series titled, *Finding Joy in Uncertain Times*. The series will be based upon the New Testament book of Philippians, where we will learn what the Apostle Paul discovered about finding joy despite our circumstances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think we sometimes have trouble getting “past” our past? Can you think of some things from your past that still bother you?
2. In Philippians 3:5-9, Paul lists some of the things from his past that he used to take pride in. According to the passage, why was it essential that he set aside those things?
3. What do you think most people are trusting in, in order to get right with God? Read Philippians 3:9. What are some differences between Paul’s righteousness and God’s righteousness? How would you explain to someone what they need to do in order to receive God’s righteousness?
4. Read Philippians 3:10. Why should our main goal as Christians be to know Christ? How might knowing Christ impact our joy?
5. What are some steps we can take to grow closer to Christ?

APPLICATION

We all have stories of things in our past that we regret. Who among us has not been guilty of wronging someone in the past or making significant mistakes we wish we could take back? And oftentimes, we spend so much energy focusing on past regret that we lose our joy. But how can we move forward from past mistakes to find our joy again?

We can get past the past if we focus on God, who is our future!

Paul traded his past for a new beginning with Christ. He began to focus, not on the regrets of his past, but on his relationship with Christ. And just like Paul, when we place our trust in Christ, the old has gone and the new has come. We can leave the past behind and move forward to a new future with Christ. As Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:17:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come.”

Christ redeems our past, helps us in the present and restores our future. Focus on God, who is our future!

KEY VERSES (HCSB)

Philippians 3:1-21
Acts 22:4
2 Corinthians 5:17