



Message 2: Christ Is My Joy

Text: Philippians 3:1; 7-14 and John 15:9-12 (NLT)

Summary:

Many are searching for deep, soul-satisfying joy. What if joy isn't something you find, but Someone you know? Paul learned that true joy doesn't come from success, comfort, or reputation, it comes from knowing Jesus. In Philippians 3, he shows that joy isn't a prize for the perfect, it's a gift from a perfect Savior. Are you chasing happiness that fades, or the lasting joy that only Christ can give?

1. Joy **STARTS** where self-sufficiency ends. (7-9)

I COUNT everything as loss to gain Christ

Philippians 3:7-9 (nlt)

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

2. Joy **GROWS** where we share both His power and His pain. (10-11)

I SHARE Christ's life: His resurrection power and His sufferings

Philippians 3:10-11 (nlt)

10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

3. Joy ENDURES when grace keeps us running. (12–14)

I PRESS on because Christ has made me His own

Philippians 3:12-14 (nlt)

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,[b] but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What "gains" in your life might God be asking you to count as loss so you can know Christ more fully?
2. How can the "twin tracks" of pain and joy help you interpret your current season?
3. What does it practically mean to share Christ's power and His sufferings in everyday life?
4. How does knowing that Christ has already "taken hold of you" free you to press on in faith?
5. Do you sense God inviting you to exchange the pursuit of "happiness" for deeper joy in Jesus this week? If so, in what ways?