

PHILIPPIANS - THE KEYS TO UNLOCKING OUR JOY

Lesson 4

Review: *While it is clear that some of our difficulties in life can be a "direct" consequence of our actions, and some can be designed to "discipline" us in a preventative way, it must be understood that there is also a type of pain and suffering that is "divine" in both its cause and its purpose. By this, God accomplishes great things and receives great glory as we endure with joy!*

RELEASING OUR JOY IN THE PRISON OF PAIN - Part 2 & 3

I. JOY CAN BE RELEASED AS WE STABILIZE OUR FEELINGS - Phil. 1:3-11 / 4:6-9

A) Stability begins with PRAYER - vs. Phil. 1:3-4 / 4:6-7

B) Stability builds with PRAISE - vs. Phil. 1:3-11 / 4:8

1) He was grateful for the people of GOD - vs. 3-4

2) He was grateful for the times that were GOOD - vs. 5

3) He was grateful for their present GRACE - vs. 6-7

4) He was grateful for their potential GROWTH vs. 8-11

a) Abound in their LOVING

b) Abound in their LEARNING

c) Abound in their LABORING

d) Abound in their LIVING

C) Stability begets a right PERSPECTIVE - Phil. 1:12

II. JOY CAN BE RELEASED AS WE SETTLE OUR FOCUS - Phil. 1:12-18

A) He focused on how prison had reversed his BONDS - vs. 13

"It wasn't he who was bound to the guards, but rather they were bound to him."

B) He focused on how his prison had rallied the BRETHREN - vs. 14a

C) He focused on how his prison had resulted in their BOLDNESS - vs. 14b

D) He focused on how his prison had really become a BLESSING - vs. 15-18

1) His bonds even manage to provoke a spirit of MEANNESS

2) He rejoiced in the right message, if even from a wrong MOTIVE

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III. JOY CAN BE RELEASED AS WE STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH - *Phil. 1:19-26*

A) Strengthening our faith to look **BEYOND** this life - vs. 19-20

1) This prison is a step in my ultimate **DELIVERANCE**

a) He may deliver me **FROM** it

b) He may deliver me **THROUGH** it

c) He may deliver me **BY** it

B) Strengthening our faith to look **BACK INTO** this life - vs. 21-26

1) It would his great joy to **LIVE** for Christ

a) That he might continue to **INSTRUCT** them

b) That he might continue to **INVEST** in them

c) That he might continue to **INSPIRE** them

2) It would be his great joy to **LEAVE** for Christ

a) He would know he finished his **COURSE**

b) He would know he received his **CROWN**

IV. JOY CAN BE RELEASED AS WE SEE OTHERS FAITHFULLY FOLLOW - *Phil. 1:27-30*

A) Their rejoicing will always abound as they live by right **PRACTICES**

B) Their rejoicing will always abound as they stay right with **PEOPLE**

C) Their rejoicing will always abound as they keep right **PRIORITIES**

D) Their rejoicing will always abound as they maintain a right **PERSPECTIVE**