

PHILIPPIANS - THE KEYS TO RELEASING OUR JOY

Lesson 3

Review: *So often the joy that is within us becomes imprisoned by our reactive attitudes towards the contrary circumstances in our lives. Paul desires that we should learn that every circumstance we encounter or experience as Christians can lead to a release of joy to strengthen and comfort us as we go through it to the praise and glory of God!*

RELEASING OUR JOY IN THE PRISON OF PAIN - Part 1

I. THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE OF PAIN AND SUFFERING - *Phil. 1:6, 12, 29-30*

- A) God is always working on SOMETHING - vs. 6, 3:12
- B) God's work always has eternal SIGNIFICANCE - vs. 12
- C) God's work sometimes involves our SUFFERING - vs. 29-30

II. THE PROPER PROGNOSIS OF PAIN AND SUFFERING - *I Peter 4:12-16*

- A) Diagnosing the SOURCE
 - 1) DIRECT pain and suffering - consequential / penal
 - a) The expected RESPONSE to an unlawful act - vs. 15
 - b) The eventual RESULT of a frequent act - Gal. 6:7-9
 - 2) DISCIPLINARY pain and suffering - corrective / preventative
 - a) The EXPERIENCE of all God's children - Heb. 12:5
 - b) The EXPRESSION of all God's love - Heb. 12:6-11
 - 3) DIVINE pain and suffering - causative / purposeful
 - a) To promote His GRACE - II Cor. 12:7-9a
 - b) To promote our GROWTH - II Cor. 12:9b-10
 - c) To promote His GLORY - II Cor. 4:15-18

III. THE PROPER PRESCRIPTION FOR PAIN AND SUFFERING

- A) REPENTANCE for the "direct" pains - Psa. 51:7-13
- B) ACCEPTANCE for the "disciplinary" pains - I Pet. 4:1-2
- C) RELIANCE for the "divine" pains - I Pet. 4:17-19