

PHILIPPIANS - THE KEYS TO RELEASING OUR JOY

Lesson 2

Review: We began this study by imagining what "feelings" might dominate or overwhelm us if we were to find ourselves in prison. We then examined how many of these same "feelings" seem to have many believers "shackled" into a joyless existence because they don't see how that what they believe is responsible for robbing their joy, was in fact God's provision for their greatest joy!

I. WHY PAUL COULDN'T WAIT TO SHARE THESE WORDS WITH THEM - Phil. 1:1-7

- A) For ten years, he had them in his PRAYERS - vs. 1-5
- B) For ten years, he had seen their PROGRESS - vs. 6
- C) For ten years, they had been PARTAKERS in his work - vs. 7

II. WHY PAUL'S WORDS WOULD CARRY WEIGHT WITH THEM - Acts 16:6-40

- A) Because of his PAST ministry with them
 - 1) His coming to them was a DIVINE act of God - vs. 6-13
 - 2) His coming released Lydia from her DEAD religion - vs. 14-15
 - 3) His coming released a girl from her DEMON possession - vs. 16-18
 - 4) His coming released the jailor from a DEATH sentence - vs. 25-34
- B) Because of his PERSONAL testimony before them
 - 1) He suffered unjust PERSECUTION, yet he had joy - vs. 19-22
 - 2) He suffered undeserved PAIN, yet he had joy - vs. 23a
 - 3) He suffered an unwarranted PRISON, yet he had joy - vs. 23b-25
 - 4) He submitted to further persecution, pain and prison because of his joy - vs. 35-40
- C) Because of his PRESENT reality known among them
 - 1) They knew WHERE he was
 - 2) They knew WHAT he had been through - II Cor. 11:22-30
 - 3) They knew HOW he had gone through it