

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1 Share one thing that stood out to you in this week's sermon and why.
- 2 What does joy mean to you personally? How do you experience joy in your life?
- 3 Can joy be found in difficult circumstances? Share a personal experience where you found joy in a challenging situation.
- 4 Pastor Jeremy talked about joy killers. Which one seems to be a struggle in your life, and how can you change that pattern?
- 5 Pastor Jeremy talked about four legalistic traps. Do you fall into any of those traps? Share your thoughts.
- 6 How can we be praying for you this week?





Joy Killers and Keepers

Pastor Jeremy McGarity

"...Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."

LUKE 2:10 (NLT)

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to <u>safeguard your faith</u>.

PHILIPPIANS 3:1 (NLT)

JOY KILLERS AND KEEPERS

Joy I	Killer	#1:	

Watch out for those wicked men—dangerous dogs, I call them—who say you must be circumcised to be saved. For it isn't the cutting of our bodies that makes us children of God; it is worshiping him with our spirits. That is the only true "circumcision." We Christians glory in what Christ Jesus has done for us and realize that we are helpless to save ourselves.

PHILIPPIANS 3:2-3 (LB)

Maintenance schedule: EMBRACE

Yet if anyone ever had reason to hope that he could save himself, it would be I. If others could be saved by what they are, certainly I could! For I went through the Jewish initiation ceremony when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish home that was a branch of the old original Benjamin family. So I was a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees who demand the strictest obedience to every Jewish law and custom. And sincere? Yes, so much so that I greatly persecuted the Church; and I tried to obey every Jewish rule and regulation right down to the very last point.

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FIII	ILIPPIANS 3:4-6 (LB)
4 LEGALISTIC TR	APS
"For I went through the Jewish initiation was eight days old" (v.5a)	n ceremony when I
"having been born into a pure-bloode was a branch of the old original Benjar	
 "So I was a real Jew if there ever was	s one!" (v.5c)
"What's more, I was a member of the F demand the strictest obedience to eve custom." (v.5d)	
For the Kingdom of God is not a matte drink, but of living a life of goodness ar the Holy Spirit.	
	ROMANS 14:17 (NLT)

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8 (NIV)

Maintenance Schedule: RIGHT				
Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.				
LUKE 12:15 (NLT)				
Joy Killer #3: WRONG				
Now I have given up everything else—I have found it to be the only way to really know Christ and to experience the mighty power that brought him back to life again PHILIPPIANS 3:10 (LB)				
For my determined purpose is that I may know Christ that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more strongly and more clearly.				
PHILIPPIANS 3:10 (AMP)				
Maintenance Schedule: HIGHER				

How do you get to know God in a personal way?

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed

will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you

"Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."

And without faith it is <u>impossible</u> to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and

LUKE 2:10 (NLT)

LUKE 5:16 (NIV)

JOHN 16:24 (NLT)