

HABITS THAT LEAD TO HAPPINESS

How Happiness Can't Be Stopped, No Matter What Philippians 1:12-30

6-28-20

Big Idea:

Happiness is _____ . (Flesh)

"Happiness" comes from the word "happenstance," from which we get the word "circumstance." It depends on happenings.

Joy is _____ . (Spirit)

Philippians 1:27 - "**WHATEVER HAPPENS**, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News of Christ!"

Essentials to being happy, no matter what:

1. See every problem from _____ point of view.

Paul's view of his circumstances:

Philippians 1:12-13 - Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to **advance the gospel**.¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the **whole palace guard** and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

- Everything else in Paul's life had importance only to the degree that it affected the progress of the gospel.

When I face problems joyfully:

- It is a _____ to unbelievers.

Philippians 1:13 - As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

- It is _____ to believers.

Philippians 1:14 - Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

2. Don't let _____ control my attitude.

Philippians 1:15-18 - It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. . . .

Critics, Comrades, Competitors, & Conspirators:

Philippians 1:15-17 - Of course, some preach Christ because they are **jealous and quarrelsome**. Others preach from **genuine good will**. ¹⁶ **These do so out of love**, and they know God's given me the work of defending the gospel.

¹⁷ Others preach Christ **insincerely** from a spirit of **selfish ambition**. Others just want **to stir up more trouble for me**, and add to my pain while I am in prison."

GNT

Paul's attitude:

Philippians 1:18 - "But it doesn't really matter! The IMPORTANT THING is that in every way, whether for right or wrong reasons, the message of Christ is being shared! SO I am happy, and I will continue to be happy!" (NCV)

Philippians 1:29-30 - "For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. ³⁰ We are in this fight together. You have seen me suffer for him in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of a great struggle." NLT

Next steps:

1. Going Deeper beyond Sunday Devotional
2. Trusting Jesus to be your Lord.