

Philippians Gospel Joy 2024-01-14

Philippians 4:4

*Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice.*

Search for joy in job, possessions, travel, people, money but find only temporary happiness

- Happiness from Latin *fortuna*...closely related to chance.
 - Unlike happiness, joy is not dependant upon circumstances.
- I have friends with real joy yet physical affliction, poverty, murder of child.
 - Gospel can give real joy regardless of circumstances

First church planted in Europe on Paul's 2nd missionary journey. Acts 16:12-15

- Written 61-63AD...10 years after church planted in Lydia's home (30 years after Jesus ascension) is Nero's prisoner under house arrest in Rome.

Philippians 1:12-14

- It was not written in response to crisis, serious doctrinal/behavior problems.
 - letter to friends to express appreciation/affection.
 - most joy-filled of all Paul's letters....joy/rejoice 16x see outline at end

illustrates by own experience in prison that joy is possible in difficult circumstances

- Christian joy is not freedom from problems but ability be joyful in spite of problems.
 - Christians should interpret circumstances by God's love displayed in Gospel, not measure God's love by your circumstances.

World's view all hopeless for Paul: in chains, possible death sentence from Nero.

- Nothing robs Paul of joy because his joy is not rooted in his circumstances but in the promises in Gospel...united with Jesus Christ, citizen of heaven.

Philippians 1:18-24

- If he dies: Gospel promises he lives eternally with Jesus Christ in heaven.
 - Lynn (my sister) embraces that promise for herself and daughter.
- If Paul lives: Holy Spirit transforms him more into Jesus' image and he is able to share the Gospel.
 - Whatever happens, God determines and it is for Lord's glory:

Paul does not pretend problems aren't there or deny, minimize problems but is saying he will not be ruled by them.....Gospel and Jesus is greater!

- Paul refused let his problems be bigger than his Lord/Gospel promises.
 - Gospel can give real joy regardless of circumstances

Phil contains keys to experience true, abundant joy, regardless of circumstances

- Be prayerful about everything....fellowship with Jesus Philippians 4:4-7
 - PROMISE to give peace/joy beyond our circumstances.
 - All 3 of these joyful brothers/sisters have vibrant prayer life.

- Think Biblically: know the Word and by grace believe who you are in Jesus Christ and the promises Lord made you in Gospel. *Philippians 4:8, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Mark 9:24*
 - Where are your thoughts when you have a free moment?
 - Shame/guilt/regret past, worry/fear about future?
- Live like Jesus Christ by Holy Spirit's power: holy/humble. *Philippians 4:9, 13, 1:7, Galatians 5:22*
 - Deep-down, abundant joy in hard times makes Christianity contagious.
 - Paul's obstacle (prison) became his pulpit for God's glory.
 - Your obstacles = your pulpit if live joyfully....Lynn

Not know what you are facing but Gospel can give real joy regardless of circumstances

- Joy/peace Jesus gives not absence of trouble, but confidence He is there with you always.....sovereign, faithful, caring and LOVING at all times,
 - God's promises found in Gospel can produce an enduring joy that can't be squashed by anything!

PHILIPPIANS OUTLINE

1:1-11	Introduction
1:12-26	Paul's Situation In Rome
1:27-2:18	Call to Unity in Christ
2:19-30	Plans Involving Two of Paul's Coworkers
3:1-21	Truth Against the Errors of Judaism and Antinomianism
4:1-9	Exhortations To Unity, Joy, and Peace
4:10-20	Thanksgiving For Their Generosity
4:21-23	Final Greeting & Benediction