

Rejoice in the Lord

(Sermon Outlines on Philippians)

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Philippians

Part 1

Overview

Introduction:

A. Often the unhappy lives of Christians cause the lost to think being a Christian brings misery.
- cf. Philippians 2:14

B. But the great theme of Philippians is “rejoice in the Lord.” - Philippians 4:4

C. The purpose of this lesson is to give us an overview of Philippians.

I. Theme: “Rejoice in the Lord” - Philippians 4:4

A. “rejoice” (12 occurrences in **NKJV**) - 1:18 (2), 26; 2:16,17, 18, 28; 3:1,3; 4:4 (2),10

1. “Rejoice” is the verb form of “joy.”

2. “rejoice” is what we do; “joy” is what we have.

3. It is a commanded action as well as a promised blessing.

4. “Joy” and “happiness” are not exact synonyms. Happiness is caused by good outward circumstances (“happenstance”). Joy comes from within regardless of outward circumstances.

B. “joy” (4 occurrences) - 1:4, 25; 2:2; 4:1

C. “glad” (verb form of “joy”) (2) - Philippians 2:17-18

D. “gladness” (same Greek word as “joy”) (1) - 2:29

E. “thank” - 1:3

F. “thanksgiving” - 4:6

G. “peace” (harmony, concord, tranquility, absence of turmoil) (3) - 1:2; 4:7,9

II. Key: “Think on these things.” - Philippians 4:8 (Joy and peace come from a proper way of thinking, not from ideal outward circumstances.)

A. “mind” (10) - 4:7

1. “soul” - the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions - 1:27

2. “lowliness of mind” (humility) - 2:2

3. attitude, way of thinking - 2:5; 3:15,16,19

4. agreed together, cherish the same views, be harmonious - 4:2

B. “heart” (2) - 1:7; 4:7

C. “think” (2) - 1:7; 3:4

D. “spirit” (i.e., human spirit, 1) - 1:27 (disposition)

E. “meditate” (consider, take into account, weigh, 1) - 4:8

F. “remembrance” (1) - 1:3

III. Outline

A. chapter one: “To Live Is Christ” (The Single Mind) - 1:21 (How can we have peace and joy regardless of life's circumstances?)

B. chapter two: “The Mind of Christ” (The Humble Mind) - 2:5 (How can we find peace and joy regardless of popularity?)

- C. chapter three: “I Also Count All Things Loss” (The Spiritual Mind) - 3:8 (How can we have peace and joy regardless of how many “things” of this life we possess?)
- D. chapter four: “Be Anxious For Nothing” (The Secure Mind) - 4:6 (How can we have peace and joy by living without anxiety through the secure mind?)

IV. Result: Joy & Peace - 4:4,7

Conclusion:

- A. The purpose of this study is to help us experience the peace and joy in Christ.
- B. But you must become a Christian to receive the joy and peace of the gospel. - Acts 16:30-34

Peace and Joy Regardless of Circumstances To Live Is Christ Philippians Chapter One

Text: Philippians 1:21

Introduction:

- A. To many, contentment is just beyond reach. "If only"
- B. The lack of problems is not the key to peace and joy. - John 16:33
- C. Paul had learned to have peace and joy regardless of life's circumstances (joy in trouble, how to smile through tears). - Philippians 4:11-13
- D. How can we have peace and joy regardless of life's circumstances?

I. Paul was writing under the worst of circumstances.

- A. Chains (imprisonment)- Philippians 1:12-14
 - 1. Do we view the Lord through our circumstances or our circumstances through the Lord?- cf. Acts 16:22-25; 28:16, 30-31
 - 2. Key: Paul willingly sacrificed himself for Christ and the gospel. - Philippians 1:21
- B. Critics (false brethren) - Philippians 1:15-18
 - 1. It is easy to endure attacks from unbelievers, but, when brethren turn against us, it hurts.
 - 2. These people had the wrong attitude, not the wrong message. - Galatians 1:6-9
 - 3. Key: Paul willingly sacrificed himself for Christ and the gospel. - Philippians 1:21
- C. Crisis (possibility of death)- Philippians 1:19-26
 - 1. Only the Christian can accept death as a positive good. - Philippians 1:23
 - 2. Key: Paul willingly sacrificed himself for Christ and the gospel. - Philippians 1:21

II. The key to Paul's peace and joy was **the single mind**. - Philippians 1:21

- A. Joy and peace are the results, not of outward circumstances, but of the proper attitude toward Christ and the gospel.
 - 1. "Christ" (18 occurrences) - verses 1,2,6,8,10,11,13,15,16,18,19,20,21,23, 26 27 29
 - 2. "gospel" (6 occurrences) - verses 5,7,12,17,27
- B. How would you honestly state it? - Philippians 1:21
 - 1. money - to leave it behind
 - 2. pleasure - to suffer
 - 3. fame - to be forgotten
 - 4. power - to lose it

III. Such dedication to Christ will be reflected in our lives.

- A. We will be "filled with the fruits of righteousness." - Philippians 1:3-11
- B. Our manner of life will "be worthy of the gospel of Christ." - Philippians 1:27-30

Conclusion.

A. The one who can truly say, “To me to live is Christ,” can meet all life’s troubles with joy and peace, for he knows his pilot can lead him safely through the tempest.

1. little girl on ship unafraid in storm

2. “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me” (#89, **Hymns for Worship**)

B. Can you truly say, “To die is gain”?

1. Are you in Christ?

2. Is Christ In you?

Peace and Joy When Unpopular

The Mind of Christ

Philippians chapter Two

Text: Philippians 2:5

Introduction:

- A. The philosophy of the day is to find happiness in putting oneself first. - e.g., commercials that say “You deserve....,” the ME generation
- B. The most miserable people are those who think only of themselves. - e.g., America is a selfish nation with a very high rate of suicides and mental disorders (**U.S. News and World Report**)
- C. Paul found joy and peace in selflessly giving of himself to serve others. - Philippians 2:17-18
- D. How can we find peace and joy regardless of popularity?

I. The key is to have the mind of Christ. - verse 5

- A. No other person with so lofty a nature and position has lived upon the earth. - verse 6
- B. Yet no other person was ever more severely denounced. - Matthew 10:25

II. The mind of Christ is the mind of humility.

- A. This is not an “inferiority complex.” - verse 6
- B. It is a voluntary lowering of oneself to serve others. - verse 7
- C. This humility is expressed:
 - 1. in service to man - verse 7; cf. Mark 10:45
 - 2. in obedience to God - verse 8

III. We express the mind of Christ, the mind of humility, in the same way.

- A. in service to man - verses 1-4
 - 1. the example of Paul - verses 17-18
 - 2. the example of Timothy - verses 19-24
 - 3. the example of Epaphroditus - verses 25-30
- B. in obedience to God - verses 12-16

IV. God will reward the mind of humility. verses 9-11

Conclusion:

- A. The most joyful people in the world are those who have the mind of Christ, the mind of humility.
 - 1. They put obedience to Christ above all else.
 - 2. They put service to others second.
 - 3. They put themselves last. (**Jesus, Others, You**)
- B. They do not have time to worry about or feel sorry for themselves, for they are too busy serving God and others.
- C. Do we have the mind of Christ?

“I Also Count All Things Loss” The Spiritual Mind Philippians chapter 3

Text: Philippians 3:7

Introduction:

- A. American possess many of the “things” of the world but have little peace and joy.
- B. Paul had learned to have peace and joy regardless of:
 - 1. life’s circumstances (the single mind) - Philippians 1:21
 - 2. what others thought of him (the mind of Christ - the humble mind) - Philippians 2:5
 - 3. how many of the things of this life he possessed (the spiritual mind). - Philippians 3:7
- C. How can we have peace and joy regardless of how many “things” of this life we possess?

I. Paul left us the right example.- 3:17 (Key: “The Spiritual Mind”)

II. What is Paul’s example in regard to “things”? (“Things” is the key word in chapter 3. It is used 5 times to denote “things” of the world. - verses 7, 8 (2), 13, 19)

A. Paul’s Past (“I Count” - “Paul the Accountant”; Proper Values)- 3:1-11

- 1. He renounced his former religion for Christ (You won’t condemn your parents by obeying Christ, but you will condemn yourself if you don’t obey him.). - verses 1-6
- 2. He renounced all “things” for Christ. - verse 7
 - a. It is not wrong to possess “things.”- Genesis 13:2; James 2:23; Job 1:1-3
 - b. it is wrong to allow “things” to possess us. - Matthew 6:24
- 3. To win Christ is far greater than to have all the “things” of the world.- verses 8-11

B. Paul’s Present (“I Press” - “Paul the Athlete” Proper Vigor) - 3:12-16

- 1. Though if anyone had the right to rest on his laurels, Paul did, he, nevertheless, did not have a “satisfied religion.”- verse 12
- 2. He was “single-minded.”- verses 13-16 (“but one thing I do”); cf. water in a narrow channel or spread out

C. Paul’s Future (“I Walk” - “Paul the Citizen”; Proper Vision) - 3:17-21

- 1. Some are enemies of the cross. - verses 18-19
- 2. Our “citizenship” is in heaven. - verses 20-21; e.g., going to Canada

Conclusion:

- A. The “things” of this world bring no true peace and joy.
 - 1. No one ever has everything he wants.
 - 2. You will die and leave it all behind.
- B. True peace and joy come from counting “all things loss for Christ” (having the “spiritual mind”). - 3:7
- C. Where are our minds? Where is our citizenship?

Be Anxious for Nothing

Text: Philippians 4:4-7

Introduction

- A. Often the anxious, unhappy disposition of Christians causes others to be driven from Christ.
- B. But Christians of all people should have peace and joy. - Philippians 4:4,7
- C. In the book of Philippians, Paul gives us the keys to the joy and peace Christians should have.
 - 1. chapter one: peace and joy regardless of life's circumstances by having the single mind - Philippians 1:21
 - 2. chapter two: peace and joy regardless of what others think of us by having the mind of Christ, the mind of humility - Philippians 2:5
 - 3. chapter three: peace and joy regardless of how many things we possess by having the spiritual mind - Philippians 3:7
- D. In chapter four we learn how to have peace and joy by living without anxiety through the secure mind. - Philippians 4:6-7

I. God's Peace - Philippians 4:1-9

- A. First Key: Be right with the Lord. (If you're not right with God, you ought to be anxious.) - verses 1-4; cf. Isaiah 32:17
 - 1. Peace and joy are:
 - a. "in the Lord" - verses 1,2,4,10
 - b. "in the gospel" - verse 3
 - c. "in the Book of Life"- verse 3
 - 2. Getting into the Lord starts with the right attitude. - Acts 16:30
 - 3. It is completed by faith in and obedience to the gospel. - Acts 16:31-33
 - 4. The result is joy and peace. - Acts 16:34
 - 5. To maintain this rejoicing we must "stand fast in the Lord." - verse 1
- B. Second Key: Be right with others. - verse 5
 - 1. "gentleness": "moderation" (**KJV**) "forbearing spirit" (**NASB**) "sweet reasonableness" (W.E. Vine, **An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**. 2:117) - James 3:17
 - 2. This is because "The Lord is at hand."
 - a. to see our actions, hear our words, and know our motives - Hebrews 4:13
 - b. to help us - Hebrews 13:6
- C. Third Key: Pray - verse 6
 - 1. "anxious": "to draw in different directions, distract anxious care" (Vine. 1:168); "to be troubled with cares" (J.H. Thayer, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 400)
 - a. According to psychiatrists, 92% of the things we worry about either never happen or are beyond our control.
 - b. There are two things we should never worry about.
 - (1) that which we can do something about - Do something about it!
 - (2) that which we can do nothing about - Pray!
 - 2. Remedy: Pray. - Acts 16:25; "Leave It There," # 235, **Sacred Selections**

D. Fourth Key: Think right (Don't be guilty of stinkin' thinkin'). - verse 8

1. true
2. noble - "*honorable, worthy*" (W.F. Arndt and F.W. Gingrich, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 754)
3. just
4. pure
5. lovely - "*pleasing, agreeable*" (Arndt & Gingrich. 727)
6. of good report - "things spoken in a kindly spirit" (Thayer. 263)
7. virtue - "*moral excellence*" (Ibid. 73)
8. praiseworthy

E. Paul himself is a great example of these keys. - verse 9; Acts 16:25

F. Fifth Key: Trust God

1. Trust God's Power. - verses 10-13
 - a. "content": "independent of external circumstances" (Ibid. 85)
 - c. Don't say, I just can't do this. - verse 13
 - d. It is a simple matter of faith. - Hebrews 13:5
2. Trust God's Provision. - verses 14-19
 - a. He will supply all our needs. - verses 18-19; Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 1:3; Romans 8:31-32
 - b. To Him be the glory. - verse 20

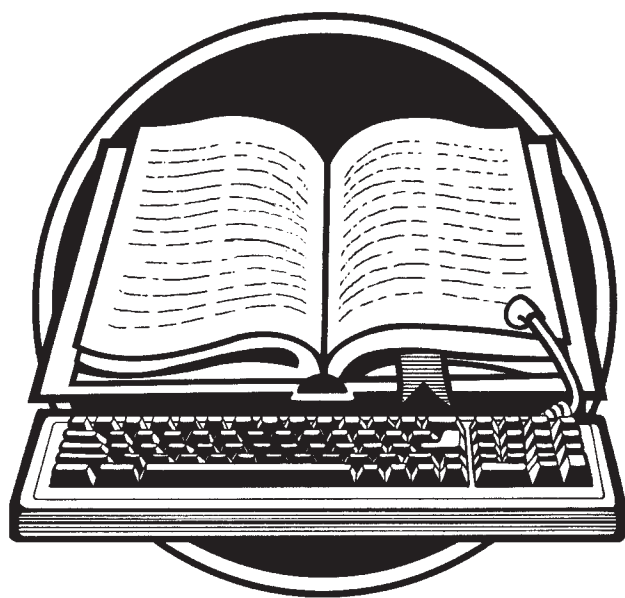
Conclusion:

A. What are the keys to peace and joy? - Philippians 4:4,7

1. The **Single Mind** will bring peace and joy regardless of life's circumstances. - Philippians 1:21
2. The **Mind of Christ**, the mind of humility, will bring peace and joy regardless of what others think of us. - Philippians 2:5
3. The **Spiritual Mind** will bring peace and joy regardless of how many things we have. Philippians 3:7
4. The **Secure Mind** will bring peace and joy in freedom from anxiety.

B. This peace and joy are beyond the comprehension of the world. - Philippians 4:7

C. But this peace and joy are only for those who "stand fast in the Lord." - Philippians 4:1



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