

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Joy in the Journey - "The Power of Joy"
Philippians 1:12-26
Drue Warner
1-11-26

OVERVIEW

Theme: *"The Joy of Lord"*

Outline by Warren Wiersbe:

- I. The Single Mind (Philippians 1)
- II. The Submissive Mind (Philippians 2)
- III. The Spiritual Mind (Philippians 3)
- IV. The Secure Mind (Philippians 4)

BACK STORY

34 A.D. Paul is confronted by Jesus and converted on the road to Damascus (Acts 9)

42 A.D. Peter arrested in Jerusalem and an angel led him out of prison (Acts 12)

- 1st Prison Story

46 A.D. Paul and Barnabus launch out into their 1st missionary journey (Acts 13)

- Paul wanted to go to Asia (Turkey), Macedonia (Europe Greece), and Rome
- Cyprus, Asia Minor (Turkey) > Antioch (Pisidia), Iconium, Lystra, Derbe (Jewish)

49 A.D. Paul, Silas, and Timothy venture out into the 2nd missionary journey (Acts 16)

- Macedonia (Europe) > **Philippi**, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth (18 mos.)
 - o Redirected from Bythnia to Macedonia: "Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them." – Acts 16:6-10

53 A.D. 3rd Missionary Journey (Europe - Greece)

62 A.D. Paul sent to Rome

- o letters to Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians

Map 1 (Modern)

Map 2 (Paul's Journey's / Philippi) – 3 regions:

1) Asia-Turkey 2) Macedonia / Europe-Greece 3) Rome

About Philippi - In 356 B.C., Philip II of Macedon (age 26) conquered Crenides (founded in 360 B.C.) and renamed it Philippi, where he established a powerful military homebase and gained great wealth from its plentiful gold mines.

The start of the Philippian Church (Acts 16)

- **Lydia** - On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. **The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.** When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.
– Acts 16:13-15

vs. 16-22 Paul cast a spirit out of a fortune-telling female slave. Her owner got mad and had Paul and Silas brought before the authorities.

- **Philippian Jailer** - ²³ **After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison,** and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully.²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.²⁶ **Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.**

²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴ **The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household.**

TEXT: Philippians 1:12-26

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that **what has happened to me** has actually 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. ¹⁴ And **because of my chains**, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

- **3rd Jail Story** – Paul knew about Peter's miraculous jail story in Jerusalem and had experienced his own miraculous jail story in Philippi.

- He has seen the good that can come out of difficulty, so he's seizing every opportunity.

- **The Power of Joy** - *For Paul, Joy is not just a positive attitude, it is a declaration of faith.*
- **Example:** A great example of what it looks like to view even your most difficult circumstances as an opportunity for the gospel is Jimmy Greer. When Jimmy was going in for his regular chemo treatments, he always looked at them as a perfect opportunity to share the love and hope of Christ. Jimmy shared that there were multiple other people also receiving treatment, the treatment took a couple of hours, and most people in the room were feeling some level of fear, anxiety, and/or weariness as a result of the cancer, factors which made it a perfect opportunity to bring the hope, joy, and encouragement of Christ.

¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of 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.**

- People can complain and be critical of differences in theology and ulterior motives, and why those things are important, the most important is that Christ is being preached and proclaimed.
- We can't concern ourselves with denominational or theological differences of others. If they claim the name of Christ and preach a biblical gospel, they are brothers and sisters and advocates.
- We're not in competition with other churches. We're partners!

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Distinguishing marks of Christianity:

1. **Joy in suffering**
2. Love for enemies
3. Good from evil
4. Peace in anxiety

It is my deep desire that God would press this truth (of joy in suffering, completely independent of our circumstances, and secured to Jesus) and massage it into our hearts, minds, and into the very marrow of our bones.

Boot camp vs. Battlefield

- The truth is that spiritual growth happens on the battlefield, not in Boot Camp, but the purpose of boot camp is to prepare us for the battlefield, so that when you're there, your instincts will be not an alignment with the flesh, but with the Spirit.

Suffering activates truth.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." - Philippians 1:21

- **No matter what our circumstances and sufferings, we have a great hope because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, that everything will turn out well for us in the end.**
- Whether by life or by death... we win! And THAT belief and knowledge enables us to live life, in all of our circumstances, with a joy that is powerful enough to give us a lens that sees every situation as an opportunity for the gospel (i.e., Jimmy Greer getting chemo treatments).
- As a result, joy is multiplied (in our own hearts – you see this all the way through with Paul) and in the lives of others, as they embrace the joy that comes from knowing Jesus.
- **To live is Christ and to die is gain.** It's a win-win!

And THAT'S Good News!