

**Sermon Notes**  
**Good News Church**  
*Joy in the Journey*  
**“The Friendship of Joy”**  
**Philippians 2:19-30**  
**Drue Warner**  
**2-22-26**

**PHILIPPIANS OVERVIEW**

**Theme: “The Joy of Lord”**

**Outline by Warren Wiersbe:**

CH. 1 The Single Mind

- 1/4 “The Increase of Joy” (Phil. 1:1-11)
- 1/11 “The Power of Joy” (Phil. 1:12-26)
- 1/18 “The Community of Joy” (Phil. 1:27-30)

CH. 2 The Submissive Mind

- 2/1 “Philippians 1 Overview” (Snow Zoom)
- 2/8 “The Humiliation of Joy” (Phil. 2:1-11)
- 2/15 “The Fulfillment of Joy” (Phil. 2:12-18)
- 2/22 “The Friendship of Joy” (Phil. 2:19-30)

CH. 3 The Spiritual Mind

CH. 4 The Secure Mind

**LAST WEEK:**

- Work out your salvation...
- It is God who works in you...
- Do everything without grumbling...
- You will be like shining stars in the sky among a “warped and crooked generation” (Deut. 32)

**TEXT: Philippians 2:19-30**

<sup>19</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. <sup>20</sup> **I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.** <sup>21</sup> For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>23</sup> I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. <sup>24</sup> And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

<sup>25</sup> **But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.** <sup>26</sup> For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. <sup>27</sup> Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. <sup>29</sup> **So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him,** <sup>30</sup> **because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.**

## FRIENDSHIP

- **How would you define friendship?**
  - one attached to another by affection or esteem
- **What are the characteristics of a good friend?**
  - Listen, loyal, helpful, committed to your good, assume the best, enjoy being with you, honest, accepting, reliable, fun

### Top 11 Characteristics

1. Loyal / Trustworthy
2. Honest / Truthful
3. Supportive / Encouraging
4. Accepting / Non-Judgmental
5. Listen / Interested in you
6. Assume the Best / Forgiving
7. Caring / Empathetic
8. Reliable / Consistent
9. Considerate / Respectful
10. Authentic / Comfortable
11. Humor / Fun

- **Can you think of a time with a friend sacrificed for your good?**
  - *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*  
– John 15:13
  - *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*  
– Galatians 6:2

## Paul’s Friends / Missionary Companions

- Barnabas - first journey
- John Mark – Barnabas’ cousin, went home on the first journey, wrote Mark
- Silas - second journey, imprisoned in Philippi
- Luke – second and third journeys, imprisoned with Paul in Rome
- **Timothy – second journey, from Lystra, pastored in Ephesus (Turkey), 62-64 AD**
- Titus - young leader who Paul left to lead the church in Crete
- **Epaphroditus – from Philippi (possibly a retired Roman soldier), traveled 2 months (730 miles) to get to Paul imprisoned in Rome**
- Priscilla & Aquila – tentmakers, lived in Rome, Corinth, and Ephesus
- Tychicus – Gentile Believer from Ephesus, delivered Paul’s letters to churches
- Trophimus – Gentile Believer from Ephesus, caused riot in the Jerusalem Temple
- Demas – deserted Paul near the end, “loved this present world” (2 Tim. 4:10)

## Timothy (Lystra)

- “My beloved and faithful son in the Lord” (1 Cor. 4:17)
- Raised by his parents (mom, Lois) and grandmother (Eunice)
- His father was said to be a Greek while his mother was a Jew.
- Had an impressive knowledge of the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15)
- Willing to be circumcised (Acts 16:1-3) so not to hinder the spread of the gospel.

## Epaphroditus (Philippi)

- Paul calls him a “brother, fellow co-worker, and fellow soldier” (Phil. 2:15)

## Friendship of Joy

### 1. Friendships fuel joy.

- We need community / friends. We were created for it

### 2. The enemy seeks to isolate.

- The enemy seeks to quarantine you in isolation (i.e., punishment of solitary confinement)
- Seek to stay connected.

### 3. Friends enter into your suffering.

- When Paul needed his friends the most, they were there in prison with him (Timothy, Epaphroditus, Luke, Aristarchus, Epaphras, Tychicus, and Onesimus)
- *“Friends bring hope from despair, joy from sadness, and encouragement when our spirit is downcast.”*
- Presence is huge.

### Receiving & Giving

- In addition to thinking about what kind of friends we want to have, we also have to think about what kind of friend we’re going to be.
  - **Are you a... grumbler (vs. gratitude), arguer (vs. peacemaker), taker (vs. giver), complainer (vs. encourager), fountain (or a drain)?**

### Jesus

- **The most important friendship is with Jesus (“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”)**
  - What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! // Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer! // Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.
- **The key to every deep friendship is that it be rooted in friendship with Jesus. Friends who share faith in Christ are a blessing to the soul.**
  - There is a huge difference between the depth and soul connection of friendship when Jesus is a mutual friend as opposed to when he’s not.
- **Every good thing that you and I experienced in this room on Sunday mornings is because of our friendship with Jesus and it’s because of Jesus himself.**
  - Jesus is present with us. His presence filled this room, both in His Spirit in this room and also in His Spirit in us.

- **When Jesus walked to the Earth, the crowds loved to be with him, and when he would leave, they would go to great lengths to find him.**
  - Jesus was perfectly holy, he was perfectly God, and he was perfectly full of joy and love and healing and words of life.
  
- **The things that non-Believers love about their friends who are Believers (i.e., grace, kindness, love, etc.), are actually the things they love about Jesus.**
  - If they love us, then they really love Jesus, because that's where the things they love about us comes from.

***9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you... 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you.” – Jesus (John 15:9-16a)***

**And that’s Good News!**

END OF SERVICE BLESSING (from Dr. W. Frank Harrington)

*Go now in peace*

*And as you go, remember that it’s by the goodness of God you were born.*

*And it’s in the mercy of Jesus Christ that you have been redeemed.*

*Remember that He walks with you every day to comfort, to strengthen, to guide.*

*He promised He would, “Lo I am with you always.”*

*And remember that while others have called you servant, He has named you friend.*

*In the strength of that mighty friendship, go forth now in peace to serve*

*in the Master’s name, until we meet again. Amen.*