

Welcome!

- ✓ *Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.*
- ✓ *Say hello to someone you don't know.*
- ✓ *We'll gather at 10:20am.*

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Preparing our Hearts for Worship

Psalm 139:1-3, 13-14, 17-18

*You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive
my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out
and my lying down; you are familiar
with all my ways...*

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me
together in my mother's womb. I praise you
because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...*

How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber all of the grains of sand.

Joy

in the

Journey

Paul's letter to the
Philippians



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)
- 2/1 *“Philippians 1 Overview”* (Snow Zoom)

Philippians Overview

CH. 2 The Submissive Mind

- 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

- 3/1 & 3/8 *“The Fellowship of Joy”* (Phil. 2:19-30)

CH. 4 The Secure Mind

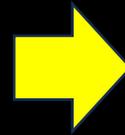
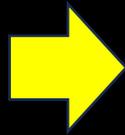
Philippians 3:7-11

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage (rubbish, dung), that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

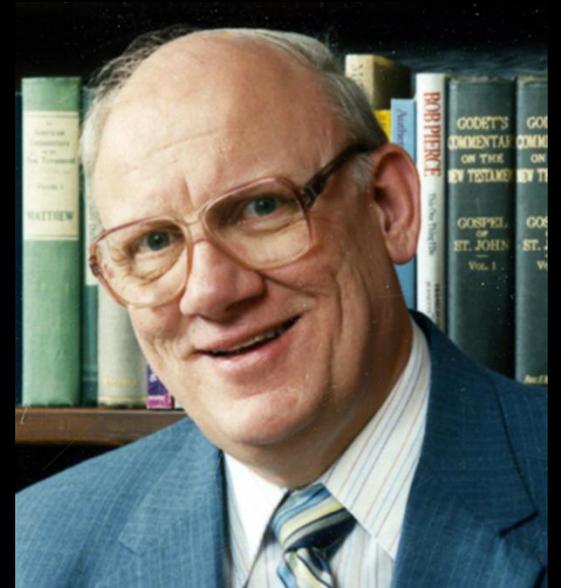
Philippians 3:7

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.



A Word from Wiersbe

*“Like most religious people today, Paul had enough morality to keep him out of trouble, but not enough righteousness to get him into heaven. It was not bad things that kept Paul away from Jesus—it was good things. **He had to lose his religion to find salvation.**” - Warren Wiersbe (“Be Joyful,” Ch. 8)*



Philippians 3:8

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

Knowing about Christ is not the same as knowing Christ.

- Knowing About - history, doctrine, theology, teachings
- Knowing – heart, voice, presence, wounds, joys

How do we know Christ better?

Spend time. Have conversation. Ask questions.

Listen. Experience life with. Have fun with.

Invite Him into your home. Go to his.

Spend time with His family.

Laugh with. Cry with.

Prioritize “knowing Christ.”

Philippians 3:9a

I consider them garbage (rubbish, dung), that I may gain Christ and be found in him,

What do you gain if you “win” Christ? Life, light, love, meaning, purpose, rest, contentment, provision, gratitude, joy, eternity.

What do you lose if you don't? No Father. No freedom from fear and anxiety. No net. No help.

Philippians 3:9b

not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

This is the Good News root which bears the fruit of everything Paul is saying in this letter.



Philippians 3:10

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

To Know Christ...

1. Power of his Resurrection
2. Fellowship in his Sufferings
3. Becoming like him in His death

1. The Power of His Resurrection

Resurrection Power is the power of the Holy Spirit that changes everything in a Believer's life.

2. Fellowship of Sharing in his Sufferings

Sharing in the sufferings of Christ signifies being "conformed to His death," prioritizing spiritual growth over earthly comfort, and finding deeper intimacy with Christ through shared pain.

Joni Eareckson Tada

“Suffering is not a matter of what God is doing and why. I think the whole purpose of it is to press us up against the Lord Jesus, to hear His heartbeat, and to identify with Him in His sufferings. It’s not about what suffering does for me. It’s about knowing Jesus better. God bless the pain. What a harsh but sweet mercy, because it has helped me just... love Him.”



3. Becoming Like Him in His Death

Becoming like Him in His death means to live life the way that Jesus did – humbling yourself, serving others, prioritizing others, putting yourself last, taking up your cross, and following Him, even unto death.

Philippians 3:11

11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Final Reflection

Paul is shocked that “resurrection from the dead” is even remotely possible, because he knows that there is nothing in him that could possibly make that happen. He also knows that resurrection is possible, not because of his own righteousness (he has none), *“but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.”*

The Blessing

from Psalm 139 and Philippians 3

“You have been known by God since before you were ever born, and His thoughts towards you are as vast as the grains of sand on the seashore. He made you, He loves you, and by faith, He has given you the righteousness of Christ that you may know Him and be found in Him, both now and for all eternity.”