

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Joy in the Journey
“The Fellowship of Joy”
Philippians 3:1-11
Drue Warner
3-8-26

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
 - 3/1 & 3/8 “The Fellowship of Joy” (Phil. 3:1-11)
- CH. 4 The Secure Mind

LAST WEEK (Phil. 3:1-8):

- **Joy is a supernatural weapon** against fear, worry, discouragement, and temptation.
- **Jesus + nothing = salvation**
- Judaizers were interested in circumcision of the flesh. Jesus is interested in **circumcision of the heart.**
- “Paul had to **lose his religion** to find salvation.”
- Wiersbe

The Fellowship of Joy (Knowing Christ)

TEXT: 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, waste thrown to dogs),** that I may **gain (win) 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.

REVIEW

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

- Gains to loss > for the sake of Christ

- **ASSETS to DEFICIT** - Not only did Paul consider those things which once were thought of as assets as being completely neutralized, he now saw them as deficit (negative balance), such that they were taking away (negatively, adversely affecting his life).
 - **Life Preserver (inflated) > Life Preserver (deflated) > Anvil!!!**
 - It was as if Paul was saying, “My self-righteousness boasting kept me from experiencing the glory and beauty of Jesus 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)

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.

- Example: Marriage on Day 1 vs. Marriage on Day 18,250 (50 years).
- **Knowing about Christ is not the same as knowing Christ.**
 - Knowing About - history, doctrine, theology, example, teachings, etc.
 - Knowing – heart, voice, presence, thoughts, hurts, wounds, joys
- **How do we know Christ better? How do we know anyone better?**
 - Spend time. Have conversation. Ask questions. Listen. Experience life with. Have fun with. Laugh with. Cry with. Invite Him into your home. Go to his. Spend time with His family. Make knowing Christ a priority in your life.

Fellowship of Joy (Part 2)

9a I consider them garbage (rubbish, dung, waste thrown to dogs), that I may gain (win) Christ and be found in him,

- **DUNG** - Now that Paul has lost all things, he can compare those things to that of knowing Christ. His conclusion is that they are σκύβαλον (skubalon)... DUNG!!!
- **GOLD MEDAL OFFENSE** - Scott Hamilton shared that, after coming to faith in Christ, and experiencing the difference that Jesus Christ made in his life, **his gold medals became an offense to him.** He kept them in the bottom of his underwear drawer and eventually gave them away for a Hall of Fame display.
- **SANDCASTLE vs. BEACH MANSION** - Building a sandcastle on the beach behind a mansion. The sand castle is great until the builder yells for you to come get the keys. It’s yours!!! But you pass it up and go back to your sand castle, only for it to be washed away 5 minutes later.
- **What do you gain if you “win” Christ?** Life, light, love, meaning, purpose, rest, contentment, provision, gratitude, joy, eternity.

- **What if you don't "win" Christ? What is life like without Christ?** No Father, no Provider. No meaning. No purpose. No freedom from fear, anxiety, and the uncertainties of life. Everything depends on YOU. No net! No Rescue! No help.
- **"Life is but a vapor."** – James 4:14 / Paul Thorn

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 Philippians.**
- *"For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." – Romans 1:17*

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,

1. Power of His resurrection

What is the resurrection power that Paul is writing about?

It is the power of the Holy Spirit that changes everything in a Believer's life. It enables Believers to

- gain victory over enslavement to sin
- endure suffering (with purpose and joy) – martyrs throughout history
- stand firm with courage under trial
- perceive and respond to circumstances with wisdom (i.e., the mind of Christ. – 1 Cor. 2:16, Phil. 2:5)

2. Fellowship of sharing in his sufferings

What does it mean to share in the sufferings of Christ?

It 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." from "Songs of Suffering"

3. Becoming like him in his death

What does it mean to "become like him in his death?"

It 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.

- **We can't do this in our own strength. We don't even want to do it!**
 - That's exactly what Paul did. The crazy thing is that this life of sacrifice also led to a life of joy.
- **What difference does knowing Christ make?**
 - affections and motives radically changed and softened
 - love, joy, peace, satisfaction, and purpose in life
 - relationships made richer, deeper, stronger, better
 - heart tenderized, emotions reconnected, beauty enjoyed

GOD KNOWS US...

*You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
– Psalm 139:1-3*

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

In conclusion, Paul is simply saying that “life is hard!” We live in a world that deceives us into thinking it has everything we need for ultimate satisfaction and joy, but ultimately those things disappoint and even enslave. But... Jesus is different! When you come **to know Jesus** and everything that He's about and everything He is, **everything else in comparison is like dung**. In fact, when we come to know Jesus, all of our other worldly possessions and accomplishments become offensive to us (because they were counterfeits standing in the way to true joy). **And so, we begin walking a different path - a path that requires we carry a cross of self-sacrifice, service, and suffering. And because that's where Jesus is, even there we find joy!** But wait there's more!!!

The path of the cross that leads to death is also the path that leads to glory. When we “die to self” and “live unto Christ,” the dead end of death is actually the door that leads to “the resurrection from the dead” and eternal life.

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. But what he does know is 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.”**

And that's Good News!