



A LIFE

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

OF JOY

Paul's Letter to the Church of Philippi: A Message of Love & Encouragement.

- **Acts 16:** Paul and the Philippian Christians share mutual hardships that have forged within them a deep love for one another and Joy in Jesus.
 - He is not writing to correct, instruct or rebuke them ... he's writing because he deeply loves them ... and they love him!
- The purpose of Paul's letter: *"Thank you for your love & concern!!"*

¹⁰ I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again ... ¹⁸ At the moment I have all I need and more, because I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus! (Chapter 4)

Review: Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

1. Joy is relational. (v. 3)

³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God ...

Truth: Joy is *not* a response to circumstances, but to healthy relationships with God, others and self.

Review: Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

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³Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.

2. Christian Joy is fueled by partnering with others in Christ. (v.v. 4-5)

- *⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy,*
- *⁵because of your partnership (**koinonia**) with me in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.*

Truth: “partnership” is not hard to measure.

- a. Prayer ... we pray consistently for others.
- b. Serving ... we delight in fussing over others.
- c. Generosity ... we bring what we have without reservation.

Review: Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

1. Joy is relational. (v. 3)
2. Christian Joy is fueled by partnering with others in Christ. (v.v. 4-5)
3. Christian Joy lives in the present ... but anticipates the future. (v.v. 6)

⁶And I am confident of this: that God,

- *who began the good work within you,*
- *will continue his work*
- *until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

Last Week: Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in full knowledge and all perception, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

... a short prayer with a powerful explanation.

Last Week: Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

1. A Short Prayer (v.9)

⁹ And this is my prayer:

- *that your love (agape) may abound more and more in full knowledge and all perception ...*

Last Week: Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

1. A Short Prayer (v.9)

2. **A Powerful Explanation** (v.v. 10-11)

¹⁰ SO THAT:

- a. *you may be able to discern what is best.*
- b. *you may be pure and blameless until Christ returns.*
- c. *you may be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.*
- d. *God will receive glory and praise.*

Reveiw: Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

1. A Short Prayer. (v. 9)
2. A Powerful Explanation. (v.v. 10-11)
- 3. A Simple Lesson: ... Love More!**

Truth: Love is a decision of your will ... Choose to love, in the power of Christ.

THIS WEEK: Citizenship: The Secret to Loving More. (Philippians 1:12-27)

Philippians 3:18-20 ... the key to understanding Paul's joy.

¹⁸ ...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ...

“citizenship” - Gk. - politeuma: the commonwealth to which we belong

- whose constitution we uphold;
- whose laws we follow;
- whose allegiance we offer;
- whose passport we are granted

THIS WEEK: Citizenship: The Secret to Loving More. (Philippians 1:12-27)

Philippians 1:27 ... the same word, carefully chosen.

*²⁷ Whatever happens, **conduct yourselves** in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*

“conduct yourselves” - Gk. - politeuomai: to behave as a citizen.

(literally) – “Whatever happens, behave as citizens who are worthy of the Kingdom of Christ.”

KEY POINT: Paul’s joy is tied directly to his citizenship in Jesus Christ.

... it’s not about his circumstances, it’s about his citizenship!

Note: Behind Paul's joy is where he calls home.

- not his circumstances, but his citizenship.

Three Examples:

1. Troubles ... Trials ... Tribulations ... (v.v. 12-14)

¹² Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me has actually helped, not harmed, the advance of the gospel:

- *¹³ For it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains because of Christ.*
- *¹⁴ And because of my imprisonment, most of the brothers & sisters have gained confidence, and boldly speak God's message about Jesus without fear.*

Note: Behind Paul's joy is where he calls home.

- not his circumstances, but his citizenship.

Three Examples:

1. Troubles ... Trials ... Tribulations ... (v.v. 12-14)

2. Christians who forget their citizenship. (v.v. 15-18)

¹⁵ It's true that some preach about Jesus out of jealousy and rivalry, while others preach about Him with pure motives.

- *¹⁶ The latter proclaim Jesus with a pure heart. They know I have been appointed to defend the Good News, and am in prison because of it.*
- *¹⁷ The former, sadly, are filled with selfish ambition. Seeing me as their competition, their motive is to make my imprisonment more painful to me.*

¹⁸ But that doesn't matter – because whether their motives are pure or not, the message about Christ is being proclaimed, so either way I rejoice! And I will keep on rejoicing!

Note: Behind Paul's joy is where he calls home.

- not his circumstances, but his citizenship.

Three Examples:

1. Troubles ... Trials ... Tribulations ... (v.v. 12-14)
2. Christians who forget their citizenship. (v.v. 15-18)

3. Life or Death. (v.v. 19-26)

²⁰ I fully expect and hope that I won't cause embarrassment, but will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been all along – trusting that my life will bring honor to Jesus, whether I live or die.

- *²¹ If I live, it means living for Christ. If I die, it will be even better!*
- *²² If I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ, but if I die I get to be with him.*
- *So I really don't know which is better – ²³ I'm torn between these two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴ But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.*

Because Paul's citizenship is in Heaven, he lives as an expatriate of Heaven.

- his allegiance is to another place – a joyful place
- his allegiance is to another King – the King of love.

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

Three Truths To Embrace:

1. Joy is not a decision of your will ... it is a measure of your relationship with Jesus.
 - Joy reveals whether you see the big picture or not.
 - Joy determines how you live through the storms.
 - Joy illuminates what's important to you.
 - Joy decides whether God's instructions matter or not.
 - Joy measures the cup of grace you have for others.
 - Joy wrestles bitterness to the ground.
 - Joy abandons popularity for spiritual passion.

Three Truths To Embrace:

1. Joy is *not* a decision of your will ... it is a measure of your relationship with Jesus.
2. The measure of your spiritual character is what it takes to destroy your joy.
 - it's not about reacting to circumstances as you want them to be, but circumstances as you don't want them to be.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love - death nor life, angels nor demons, fears for today nor worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

³⁹ ...indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8

Three Truths To Embrace:

1. Joy is *not* a decision of your will ... it is a measure of your relationship with Jesus.
2. The measure of your spiritual character is what it takes to destroy your joy.
3. Joy in the midst of great difficulty tells others that God has a better plan.
 - When others see your joy in these moments, it proves to them that your new life in Jesus is real.
 - It also tells others that you realize that your comfort is not the point of God's plan ...