Rejoice In The Lord Always

Buddy Payne · Philippians 4:1–5 · Series: **The Greatest of These Is Love**

INTRODUCTION

- The Apostle Paul wrote this text in a situation that was far less than ideal. And yet he said to the Christians to whom he addressed this letter rejoice in the Lord always.
- I think it's an appropriate introduction to what we'll talk about throughout the rest of the series.

1 Things That Have No Relationship to Happiness

- The aim was to identify the traits and characteristics of those people whose lives appear to be happier and more fulfilled than the lives of others.
- They said that happiness and life satisfaction were not associated with the following things.
- The absence of financial resources can certainly create misery. But the presence of greater riches is no guarantee of happiness.
- The fact is there are an awful lot of things that people strive after that really have no relationship to happiness.
- There was a very strong and impressive link between religion and fundamental health and happiness.

2 Motion Makes No Sense Without a Frame of Reference

- Motion makes no sense unless you tie it to something.
- The whole theme of that movie was frames of reference.
- You know why you can't detect that? Because your frame of reference isn't far enough away.
- I believe it's precisely what the Lord is telling us in His scriptures when He tells us to rejoice in the Lord always.
- Until we get our frame of reference right, we're not going to understand what the Lord's talking about.

3 Happiness Comes From Things External to Us

Ecclesiastes 9:9

- The word happiness comes from an old English word, which was a verb to happen.
- We think of that word in connection with things external to us, circumstances that surround us that bring about certain feelings.
- I'm convinced God wants us to have as many of those kinds of moments as we possibly can in this old world.
- Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life.
- Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth.

4 The Moments Become Farther Apart

- The farther your life progresses, the farther apart these times become where everything is just right in this life.
- They're not always just right and warm and fuzzy and everything's wonderful. And so what do you do about that?
- You think the apostle Paul always had warm, fuzzy moments?
- His life was filled with experiences of difficulties, trials, and tribulations, people hurting him.

5 The Lord's Happiness Goes So Much Deeper

Romans 15:13

- So the Lord's happiness is not just the external events surrounding us are all just right. No, sir. It goes so much deeper than that.
- Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The law of the Lord becomes his frame of reference.
- I must go beyond happiness as the world understands it. I must come to comprehend blessedness as God describes it.
- That blessedness, my beloved, is tied inextricably to our frame of reference.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **I pray that for every Christian here. And if you're here today and you're not a Christian, I pray that you can come to understand what life is about.**

MY NOTES