Where Is Your Joy?

Greg Kline · Philippians 1:3–18

INTRODUCTION

- Isn't that amazing to think God looks at us and is proud and pleased? Can we be pleasing to our God?
- Paul shows us a lot in Philippians, and we're gonna focus this morning on one concept in particular, and that is joy.
- Question for the morning is where is our joy as Christians?

1 Paul's Joy in Remembrance of You

Philippians 1:3–8; Philippians 1:18; Philippians 2:2

- I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.
- He understood the tie that binds them all. They shared in grace and Jesus.
- Paul doesn't let any of the blessings of God grow stale or tired or cumbersome. He views them as an opportunity to connect with others.
- What is motivating Paul is not about being smiley. It's about having confidence in God.

2 We Struggle With Joy Because Life Is Hard

Matthew 13:19–23; John 13

- One of the reasons it's difficult is because life is difficult. Life is hard.
- There is a force out there, the Bible calls him Satan, and he is coming to make your life difficult and hard so that you don't rely on God.
- The Bible teaches God will get me through these hard times because there is persecution and affliction, and it's coming for me because I follow after Jesus.
- The question isn't, is life hard? It's how do I respond to the difficulty? Jesus kept on doing the right thing.

3 Our Neighbors Aren't Joyful

1 Thessalonians 4:13–14; 1 Corinthians 15

- Sometimes we struggle with joy because our neighbors aren't joyful.
- If the world throws its biggest dart at you, and it takes your life, we have hope. And we have hope because the resurrection is true.
- We need to spend far more time thinking about how Christ died for me and for you.
- If I have Jesus and I'm lacking in joy, it's not a Jesus problem.

4 Not Confident in My Salvation

Ephesians 2:1–9; Hebrews 11:29; 1 John 1:5–10

- It might be that I am not joyful because I'm not confident in my salvation. My salvation is inextricably connected with God's grace.
- For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not as a result of works, that no one should boast.
- If I'm making salvation about how good I am, that is going to be a losing battle.
- Maybe I'm lacking joy because I don't realize God's doing the hard part.
- Maybe I can find and embrace joy because I realize devotion has never been about perfection.

5 Focus on What We Do Have

Philippians 1:12–18

- We need to focus on what we do have rather than what we don't.
- Think about what you do have. Think about what Christ has done. That's where joy is found on what I do have and where I'm going.
- Stop staring at the bars and start looking at the redeemer.

6 Find Joy in Being a Blessing

James 1:2–4; 2 Corinthians 1:3–7

- Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- God wants us to focus on even in the face of trials, how it can perfect our faith.
- Help someone else who is facing that same struggle. Show them they're not alone.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **So where is our joy? It's at the right hand of God in heaven.**

MY NOTES