

Philippians Intro

- ◆ Throughout Philippians we see joy as a repetitive theme...
 - “I make my requests for all of you with _____.” (1:4)
 - “so I _____” (1:18)
 - And I will continue to _____ . (1:18)
 - “Yes, you should _____, and I will share your _____.” (2:18)
 - “_____ in the Lord.” (3:1)
 - “Always be full of _____ in the Lord. I say it again—_____!” (4:4)
 - Each chapter after chapter the word joy jumps off every page in various forms.
- Paul writes this letter almost as a letter of _____ of His joy.
- Philippians was written between 1st and 2nd _____. He came to Corinth deflated but was invigorated by what God had done.
- Paul was able to have joy because of his _____ in God’s _____.
 - As a follower of Christ, no matter what happens to us or against us, God was in _____ of our lives.
 - God never _____ to have control and He is always working out His plan.
 - Paul saw his imprisonment from the perspective of God’s sovereignty, which allowed him to _____.
 - He didn’t view his imprisonment as an _____ in his work to proclaim the gospel, instead he saw it all happening according to God’s perfect plan.
 - When we trust God’s control of _____ things and He is working them out for our good, we can be joyful even when things stink.
- Paul was able to have joy because of his _____ in heaven.
 - God had given Paul a clear vision of heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-10), and this vision gave him incredible hope for the future that enabled him not only to press on throughout all the difficult circumstances of his life, but to do so with joy!
 - Our hope is God’s promise of _____.
 - Because of God’s promises, all of our trouble, when put in the _____ of our reward will not crush us. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

- We cannot let the _____ of our joy win. (Isaiah 53:3-6)
 - Jesus possessed a deep joy that was beyond anything the world could offer even though He knew His earthly purpose.
 - Even as He faced _____ on the cross Jesus spoke about joy! (John 15:11).
 - Those who have trusted Christ have the _____ of experiencing “fulness of joy”. (Ps. 16:11)
 - Unfortunately, few Christians take _____ this privilege.
 - We allow ourselves to live look for and expect _____ and for things to go poorly.

What are the destroyers of our joy?

- ◆ _____: *We allow the circumstances of the world to impact what we do and how we do it rather than taking the mandate of the gospel and shaping out lives and world around that.*
- ◆ _____: *We all are guilty of allowing what others say about us shape our joy. We cannot allow our joy to be destroyed by the actions or opinions of others.*
- ◆ _____: *Things can so quickly entangle and paralyze us, making us inept for the purposes of God.*
- ◆ _____: *Worry of the what if dictates our joy and often destroys our hopes and dreams of what God has for us.*

What are the attitudes we should have to keep our joy intact?

- ◆ A _____ - _____ approach to our purpose in life. (Philippians 1)
- ◆ A _____ Mind to the voice of God. (Philippians 2)
- ◆ A _____ Mind looking for the activity of God in everyday life. (Philippians 3)
- ◆ A _____ Mind focused on the sovereignty of God. (Philippians 4)

So What Now?

- If your life is not marked by joy be willing to evaluate your own salvation. (Am I really a Christian?)
- Be willing to admit your failures.
- As a follower of Christ, we must daily surrender our minds to Christ. (This will help you to find a singular purpose and thought for your life.)
- As we surrender and discover our purpose, we need to identify opportunities to be at work for God’s kingdom.