

Philippians 1:1-8

A Recipe for Unexpected Joy Part 2

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,
with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
4 always in every prayer of mine making request for
you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel
from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this
very thing, that He who has begun a good work in
you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;
7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all,
because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in
my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the
gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For
God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all
with the affection of Jesus Christ. - **PRAY**

**Who here is a CS Lewis Fan? – Heard of
Chronicles of Narnia? - 3 kids who enter Narnia -
Wardrobe Closet**

A)A world of excitement – Aslan – good evil
battles

B)A sequel to the Chronicles of Narnia is The
Voyage of the Dawn Treader

C)There is a scene in that book where a very
irksome boy named Eustace Scrubb is badgering
his cousins Lucy and Edmund for their silly belief
in a place called Narnia

**D)When the water from the painting starts
moving and ends flooding the room.**

1)Instead of entering Narnia through a wardrobe, as
they had done before, the children enter through the
picture frame.

E)It is “**heir portal to a very different reality, a
world called Narnia and a lion named Aslan.**

1)The picture frame reframes what is possible.

F)The picture frame reframes who they are—boys
and girls who become kings and queens.

The Bible is our picture frame.

A)It redefines perspective and possibility: “I can
do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

B) It reframes reality: “No eye has seen, no ear has
heard, and no mind has imagined what God has
prepared for those who love him.

C)And it reminds us of who we really are:

1)Who we belong to and where we are going

**Paul was one who saw life through the frame of
who Jesus was: The Risen Lord – who changed his
life.**

A)He goes from being a **persecutor** of followers of
Jesus –

B)to one who **was passionately in love with Jesus** –
Lived to Serve Jesus

**C)God uses Paul to write 13 books in the NT and
the book of Philippians is one that Paul wrote
toward the end of his life.**

D)Paul is believed to have been killed in 68 AD –

1)He writes the book of Philippians in 62 AD from
a Dungeon in Rome – Prison epistles.

E)Theme of Joy – **19 times in 4 short chapters** –
Paul uses the word Joy

1)Manifesto for having Joy – under the most difficult
and unexpected circumstances

**I think that is important to note when Paul writes
this book –**

A)because if he wrote it in the beginning of his
ministry- or Christian walk

B)It would be easy to say: Excuse his enthusiasm
for Novice Zeal! –

1)A young believer excited about Jesus – conquering
the world

**C)We could easily say He will learn – walking
with Jesus isn't always easy!**

1)And that Ministry is hard –

D)But Paul writes this book – after he has already
experienced what he describes in 2 Corinthians
11:24-28 – **Ministry resume**

Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me
thirty-nine lashes. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with
rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was
shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day

adrift at sea. ²⁶I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. ²⁷I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

²⁸Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches.

And now he is writing from a Roman Prison cell – Cold dark damp – rat infested –

A)So When Paul writes so much about having Joy even in those conditions –

B)I think it is worth paying attention to.

C)Saw last week two ingredients for Joy found in Paul's life

1)#1 Paul and Timothy were Bondservants of Jesus Christ –

D)in Other words – they found Joy in living not for themselves – but for Jesus

1)Also Paul had learned to see God's purpose in the Pain – (Missed it – Go Online or our App

As We continue today – we will consider 3 more ingredients for Joy that we can learn from the apostle Paul

A)#1 Paul found joy in focusing on the positive rather than the negative V.3,4 again

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

B)What do you remember about people — the good experiences or the bad experiences?

C)Isn't that true? The longer you know someone, 1)the easier it is to focus on that person's faults and the bad times instead of the happy times.

D)Unfortunately that is the natural tendency of so many of us

Paul did not have an easy time in Philippi.

A)Acts 16 tells us that when he went to Philippi he was illegally arrested, whipped, humiliated,

B)He was thrown into prison before finally being asked to leave town.

1)Yet he says, **"I thank my God every time I remember you"** (Philippians 1:3 NIV).

C)Paul could have dwelt on the negative. He could have remembered the painful memories.

But He chose not to remember the painful things; instead, he focused on the things he could be grateful for.

A)If you want to have healthy relationships, you want to have a life marked by Joy?

B)It starts with having an attitude of gratitude.

1)You will be **far happier and enjoy** your relationships more

2)if you will **develop the habit of being grateful** for the people in your life.

C)If you want to enjoy others, you've got to focus on their strengths and not their weaknesses.

1)Now I Know that With some people, it takes a lot of creativity.

D)But if you try hard enough you can find something good in everybody.

Remember what Paul told the Corinthian church – which was really messed up place – Problems

A)Tolerated sin – women yelling out in church – abused communion

B)Paul wrote more correction to that church – than any other

1)But in 2 Corinthians 5:17 – **I choose to know no man after the flesh –**

C)He was Not going to focus on the flesh – he choose to see them in Christ

D)When Paul looks back at his time in Philippi he Paul was thankful for them.

E)Because – Paul makes that his focus – his heart is filled with Genuine love for the people there

1)Notice the language he uses in Vs 7-8

7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I **have you in my heart**, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long **for you all with the affection** of Jesus Christ.

Lesson:

What Paul chooses to focus on about the believers in Philippi is directly connected to the Joy he feels in his heart as He thinks about them.

A) So what did Paul focus on concerning the Believers in Philippi ?

B) 1st They were Saints:

1) Confusion over the idea of what makes a person a Saint –

C) Some would say a saint was a dead person who was made into a statue.

1) OR A dead person who lived an almost perfect life.

D) Look to Webster's dictionary: Not much help there

1) Webster's dictionary defines a saint as someone officially recognized through canonization as being preeminent for holiness.

E) And there are different kinds of saints

Catholic background – you know then there are those who are called Patron saints

A) They're guardians of special areas. –

B) Examples St. Christopher, the patron saint of travel, Saint Anthony,

1) the patron saint of lost things, - Lost keys

C) St. Jude, the patron saint of difficult circumstances.

D) But if you do a little research on this, and you'll find it interesting,

1) you will find hundreds and hundreds of patron saints over virtually every possible category in life.

E) Some are quite surprising. For example, there is saint Barbara, who is the patron saint of fireworks.

F) There is Saint Isidore of Seville, the patron saint of the internet. I kid you not, - Check it out

There is Saint Drogo who is the patron saint of unattractive people.

A) Hey, everybody needs a saint.

B) And then there is Saint Genesius of Rome, who is the patron saint of actors and comedians.

1) And we all know they need a lot of help.

C) The Problem with all that – is it is not Biblical

Saints = Set apart one / HOLY / Set apart to the Lord

A) Speaks of Ownership / Intimacy – Important to God. – Belonging to God -

B) The word saint should not conjure up feelings of pressure or perfection – now I have to perform

1) but **promise and Privilege** –

C) God is saying – You are mine – you belong to me.

D) Paul was thankful for them because God had done a work in them

1) Darkness to light – Hell to heaven –

E) They were separated to God and from the world

Notice also that Saints have a dual citizenship a saint is somebody who belongs to two spheres, Look at, in v 1, "Paul and Timothy, bondsman's of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi."

They are in Christ, that's the first address.

A) They're in Philippi, that's the second address.

B) They are in Christ – that is first and most important –

1) Everything else in life is to feed off of that – everything else in life is connected to that –

C) That is our Spiritual Identity – Who we are in Christ

Now 87 times in your New Testament is that phrase "in Christ Jesus."

A) It's repeated over and over.

B) We are in Christ Jesus, we have been placed in him –

1) When God sees you he sees you in His son – covered in his righteousness

C) But it also means that we are united to His life.

1) His life – his nature – his heartbeat – are now a part of us – His Spirit is inside of us

It's very unique to the Christian life to say you are in Christ.

A) You will never find a Buddhist saying I am in Buddha.

B) They'll follow the teachings of that leader, but they're not in Buddha.

C) You'll never hear a Muslim saying I'm in Mohammad.

1) Or a Mormon saying I'm in Joseph Smith or I'm in Brigham Young.

D) Or a Jehovah Witness saying I'm in Charles Taze Russell.

1) Or a Christian Science saying I'm in Mary Baker Eddy.

But you'll find a Christian, like Paul, saying you are in Christ Jesus.

A) You share the same life as Him.

B) When we realize that we are in Christ and that is first –

1) That begins to shape everything that we do and how we live

C) So they are in Christ – but they are also in Philippi

D) That is where they work and that is where they live.

1) Same is true for you – You are in Christ – but you are also in **Vista? OCSD? SM? ESCD? Fallbrook? Bonsall? Carlsbad**

Now because we're residents of two realms, we should live responsible in both realms.

A) Be responsible citizens in Christ and in _____

B) When Jesus was praying for the Church in John 17 – he prayed in this way.

1) Father **"my prayer is not that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one."**

C) Please understand his heart cry. Jesus never intended for you to live in a cave,

1) or a monastery as a hermit, and to be un-involved and disassociated from your world and your society.

D) We are to be in the World – but not of the World –

1) but sometimes I think we forget what it means to be in it

E) Salt and Light – we are to permeate – rub shoulders with

I want you listen to a portion of a letter written from the second century A.D. to a man by the name of Diognetus, who was actually the tutor of Marcus Aurelius, the Roman Emperor.

And this letter to him was describing Christians that were the new phenomenon in the Roman Empire. This author says to this unbelieving Roman government official these words, **"Christians are not marked out from the rest of mankind by their country, or by their speech, or by their customs. They dwell in cities both Greek and barbarian, as each has his own lot, following the customs of the region in clothing and in food and in outward things of life generally, yet they manifest the wonderful and openly paradoxical character of their own state. They inhabit the lands of their birth, but as temporary residents thereof. And they take their share of all their responsibilities as citizens and endure all the disabilities as aliens. Every foreign land is their native land, and every native land is as a foreign land. They pass their days upon the earth, but their citizenship is in heaven."**

<http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/diognetus-roberts.html> Ch.V

What a testimony. They live responsibly here, but their citizenship is in heaven.

A) Sometimes we struggle is knowing how to balance both passports. I'm in Christ, but I'm in Vista

B) So we have responsibilities to both. How do we balance that?

1) One of the ways we balance it is make sure that you are talking to Christ about your Philippi,

C)and talking to Philippi about your Christ.

When you talk to Jesus, when you pray to Him, tell him about your neighbors,/neighborhood, your city, A)Talk to him about the problems in your city. Pray about where you live.

B)And then tell your Philippi about your Christ.

1)Tell people who don't know the Lord about what following Jesus is like.

C)That will keep you and I in the balance of carrying responsibly two passports in this dual citizenship in which we live.

D)Pause right now and let me say a word to those of you who consider yourself as living only in one address, a physical address.

You're bound to this earth. You live for the pleasures of this earth.

A)You are not in Christ, and you have no intention of ever being in Christ.

B)You're content with just living for the here and now.

1)If that is your stance, if that is your posture, then let me just encourage you GET ALL YOU CAN

C)Because this is all you get!

1)Don't know Jesus – this world is as GOOD as it gets for you. – ALL DOWN HILL FROM HERE

D)Get all your can – know this: Can't take it with you – Destiny is not good

E)But if you do know Jesus – this world is as bad as it gets for you – All up hill – from here.

Back to our text

So Paul was thankful – the work God had done in them – Saints

A)#2 He was thankful for their Partnership in the gospel V. 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

B)Fellowship – speaks of Partnership

C)When Paul thought of the church in Philippi he was thankful – because they weren't spectators

1)They were participants in the gospel

They were active in Sharing their faith – they were active in giving to the work – active in service

A)Paul was stoked at their involvement

B)Sometimes the Church resembles a football stadium –

1)Football stadium – you have 24 guys on the field being watched by 50K people in the stands

C)Church can feel like that sometimes: you have a small group – doing everything

1)Philippi wasn't that way: they were in partnership in the gospel

D)Paul writing in Romans and Corinthians describes the church – not as an ORGANIZATION

1)But as a LIVING ORGANISM – A BODY

E)Many parts all functioning together – arms legs etc

#3 Another thing that filled Paul's heart with Joy was HIS confidence in the faithfulness of God in the lives of the People in Philippi

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

A)We are going to finish up on this point today- I want you to consider 4 things about this work

1st God's work

A)Paul says, being confident that HE who has begun this good work.

B)Paul is not referring to what the Philippians did.

1)He's not saying kudos to you guys. You did such a great work at Philippi.

C)You planned. You strategized.

1)You took demographic studies of Philippian region,

Nor is Paul talking about himself.

A)He's not talking about about the work that he, and Silas, and Timothy did, because frankly, he just showed up, and God did the work.

B)Now, you might hear that and go, PR, you're not giving Paul enough credit.

1)He did more than just show up. He spoke the word to Lydia.

C)Yeah. But Luke, who is with him-- put it this way. *The Lord opened up her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. Acts 16:14*

D)It is God's work that he was doing. Paul showed up. The Lord opened people's hearts.

E)I love that verse in the Ephesians 2, for we are his workmanship. His poema, his work of art.

1)God is the master artist, skillful artist, always looking **to express himself**. It's his work.

2ND A gradual work

A)Not only is it God's work, notice more carefully in the verse, it's a gradual work.

B)It says, he who has begun a good work-- now, that word, "begun," implies it's still going on.

1)Justification is the miracle of the moment
2)Sanctification – set apart – process of a lifetime

C)We don't go from horrible sinners to being like Jesus over night

1)Holiness is not like a light switch

I say that because some of you can get really down on yourselves – feel like you are not growing

A)God is at work – Painter with a canvas

B)Sometimes – just looks like paint splashes - but it time – picture takes shape

C)Sometimes our lives resemble the backside of a tapestry – random – colors of thread

1)Flip it over to see the Masterpiece

D)God is working – a gradual work

E)But having said – that – not giving you a license for rebellion – gradual – still do drugs – get drunk

1)I can still be a jerk to some people – when I want

PR said – work in progress

F)NOT WHAT I AM SAYING: Sin and trespass

1)Trespass – Willful disobedience –
2)Sin is struggle with our flesh

So it's God's work. It's a gradual work. But notice more carefully, in v 6, 3rd thing it's a growing work.

A)Notice it says, he who has begun a good work where?

B)In you. You see, God's work is always an inside job before it's ever an outside job.

1)Always starts in the heart

C)Religion focuses on the outside: Clean up my act – change my ways –

1)Jesus says come to me – I am going to do a work IN YOU – THEN WORKS OUT OF YOU!

D)He works in you before He works through you DO YOU KNOW WHAT of a Steinway piano, \$120,000? – Bought one there other day! NO JK

A)SELL the house – awesome piano

B)But for those who can afford one a Steinway piano, Is a beautiful and amazing Piano

1)It doesn't just look good. What's in it is amazing.

C)What's in it are 12,500 different components

1)assembled by 200 different craft people who meticulously put that together.

D)And then after it's done, the Steinway piano is taken to a special room they call the pounder room.

1)Yes – THE POUNDER ROOM –doesn't sound very good, does it?

The pounder room is the place where every key gets pounded 10,000 times.

A)But with all that work, and all that pounding, there is a good work inside that piano.

B)And eventually, a master musician sits down at those keys, moves the fingers around, and the beautiful music is played and enjoyed.

C)That's God's intention to do through you. He wants to make his music through you.

1)Before he works through you, he's got a work in you.

D)Your job, house, - ponder room – trials

And sometimes it can feel like – I am never getting out of the pounder room

A) But God who loves you and is committed to you is committed to doing a work in your Heart

4th A good work

A) His plan is to make us more like Christ

B) Here is how it starts: He makes you guilty- Sin

1) You say, that's good? Doesn't sound like a good work.

C) We live in a culture that tells us **guilt is bad, we should do everything we can to get rid of guilt.**

1) No. God makes you guilty, and that's a good work.

D) See, he makes you and I aware of our lost condition.

1) And in our awareness of a lost condition, that's what drives us to seek salvation.

So the first work he does is he makes you guilty. Second work he does, he makes you hungry.

A) He makes you hungry, causing you to long for something more

B) Realize there is a void in heart that can't be filled an uneasiness -

C) You hunger, and thirst for a different kind of life.

1) So You open your heart up to Jesus

Once you come to Christ, he puts the joy of a forgiven life in your heart

A) You're now forgiven. Guilt is gone -

B) From there He is going to mold you and shape you

1) Take off the rough edges – takes time – 43yrs and mine are still coming off

C) His goal is **not to make you a better version of yourself**

1) His goal is to make you more like Jesus

5th A guaranteed work

A) Whatever God starts, He finishes

B) Any unfinished projects at your house?

1) Started a long time ago – stopped and never started

C) Thank you I see that hand

1) ME TOO – unfinished projects / books – etc

That is not God – He doesn't work that way

A) He finishes what he starts

B) He is committed to finishing the work that he started in you

C) Rejoice – Excited – His Masterpiece in the making

1) Stoked

If you are not – You can begin today

A) Guilt – Void - Sinner – Savior -

B) Stop trying to clean up the outside and let Jesus start a work on the INSIDE