

Philippians 4:10-23 Reasons to Rejoice

Intro: Today we come to our final study in the book of Philippians

A) Started our study in this wonderful book – January 6-7 – Six months digging deep into these 4 chapters

B) Noted that the theme of the book is Joy - **Paul is in Prison – full of Joy –**

1) 19 times in 4 short chapters he mentions the word – Joy or Rejoicing

C) Saw some reasons for his Joy back in Chapter 1

1) The work that God did in Philippi

2) Their partnership in the gospel – they caught it

D) God was going to complete the work He began there

E) Conclude today – 3 more reasons to rejoice

Read V. 10-19

3 Final Reasons related to 3 Words

- **His Contentment** – Learned to be content in all situations
- **His Confidence** – Confidence in Christ
- **His Connection** to the church in Philippi

Consider today – all three and make application to our lives as well.

Contentment V.11-12

A) People in our country are discontent. Gallup survey 2.5 million Americans

B) Sharp decline in the overall feeling of welling being amongst Americans from 2016 -2017

C) They defined well being as physical health and wellness; having supportive personal and family relationships; financial and economic security; having a sense of purpose; and connection to one's community.

D) According to Gallup survey America saw in 2017 its largest drop in “well-being” in the 10 years

1) Despite a growing economy

I think all of us are prone to struggle with Discontentment

A) Example for 20 yrs my primary vehicle was a 1997 Ford F-150 that I bought used in 1999 – **Love my truck**

B) In 2007 we purchased a brand new – Toyota Highlander for my wife – **first time in our married life – Car payment**

1) Great trade in Value Chevy Suburban – made for an easy car payment

C) Super low interest payment. 2012

About that time My truck started having some problems – **plus it was a V-8 gas guzzler- didn't feel comfortable driving it far**

A) So we made a decision – take the amount we were paying for a car payment - Denise's car –

B) We put it into a car fund – 5 yrs get Denise a new Car

1) At that time – The 2007 Highlander would become my primary vehicle –

C) I was counting the years – I really like our Highlander

1) 4 more to go – 3 years to go – Finally last summer – Mine!

I was STOKED – Highlander primary vehicle

A) That was until a buddy of mine showed up with his 2017 Highlander sport

B) Cooler body style – more rounded – more leg room – cooler counsel -

1) Suddenly my 2007 Highlander was not so cool!

C) That is the way that it is right – there is always someone who has something newer – better –

1) Paul says – those who compare themselves among themselves are not wise.

We have to learn to run in our own lane. Be content with where God has us /what he has provided for us.

But how do we do that? –

A) Especially living in such a materialistic culture – everyday – things are thrown in our face

B) Get the latest new gadget – latest model

1) My wife and I like to watch those home fixer upper shows – fun but also dangerous – I want that

C) Suddenly nothing in your house is right! –

What can we learn from the apostle Paul here in these verses

A) First of all notice that Paul says in V.11 – Not that I speak in regard to need, for **I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content;**

B) Note that – Paul says I have learned to be content – in other words contentment is not natural.

1) I think it is natural in the sense that it is a part of our fallen nature to want more – want something else

C) Paul says I have learned to be content in whatever state I find myself in.

1) Didn't come natural – I had to learn this – but how did he learn to be content?

D) I think there is a hint in the Greek definition of the word Content

The word “content” in v.11 actually means “contained.”

A) It is a description of the man whose resources are within him so that he does not have to depend on substitutes from without.

B) This Greek word spoke of being “self-sufficient” and was a favorite word of the stoic philosophers.

1) But the Christian is **not sufficient in himself**; he is sufficient in Christ.

C) Paul and all **who are in Christ are God-sufficient as opposed to self-sufficient.**

1) So Contentment is rooted in the eternal God rather than in the temporal self.

Paul understood – that Contentment is connected to identity – Knowing that I am a child of God –

A) Knowing that I am loved by God – knowing that he is committed to the work that he has begun in me

B) Knowing that because I am a child of God and that I am following him – he knows what is best

1) If I find myself in a situation of abundance – abounding - He knows I can handle that –

C) If I find myself in a situation of need – He is going to help me handle that as well.

D) Paul is saying – that no matter the situation – I am content because I am contained in Christ

“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.” (2 Corinthians 4:8–12)

E) Because Paul's life was contained in Jesus – connected to Jesus – he could be content – no matter the circumstance

His contentment in Jesus led to the 2nd reason for his Joy A Confidence V.13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

A) This verse has to be one of the most **abused** but also one of the most **undervalued** verses in the entire Bible

B) The abuse comes from ignoring the Context – Paul is writing from Prison –

1) Hard – waiting impending death – scary

C) But he said: I have learned to be content – and I know I can get through whatever the future holds

1) through Christ who strengthens me

D) In other words - **Whatever God has in store – he will strengthen me for it – that is the CONTEXT**

THE ABUSE:

A) Context – **All things – Gym – dead lift 450 lbs – Chanting I can do all things – throw out your back**

B) Novice surfer go out into 20 foot surf at Pipeline – I can do all things – Drowns

C) Student – Didn't study for a test – I can do all things – fails

Abuse:

D) This verse doesn't mean you can do anything you set your mind to through Christ who strengthens you. - **Ignoring Context**

But we must not undervalue this verse either:

A) Because some get so focused on the context they are afraid to apply it to anything but Paul and or prison -

B) Well I am not in prison or waiting my impending death so that verse doesn't pertain to me – that is the other extreme

C) Here is The Right view: Paul knew the situation that he was in was God ordained!

1) Through the strength of Jesus working in his life he had a confidence he was going to be able to handle it

When you realize if the situation that I am in is because God has allowed it –

A) and I am seeking him – He is going to strengthen me

B) I can make it through this – because God is going to give me his strength to make it through

C) In my walk of faith – God has led me to a situation that has turned difficult

D) Or an opportunity that seems impossible –

1) He is going to strengthen me to overcome – to accomplish his purpose

The Living Bible puts Philippians 4:13 this way: “I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.”

Are you battling illness today – God has allowed that – He is going to strengthen you to deal with it.

A) Someone break up with you or reject you? – You were following Jesus – committing it to the Lord – took you by surprise ?

B) It didn't take HIM by surprise- HE saw it coming long before you did –

1) he will strengthen you to get through it –

C) Learn from it. – **Wants to make you better – not bitter**

Job loss? Again you didn't see it coming – now you don't know what to do –

A) He is going to strengthen you to get through it

B) Ministry opportunity: **Someone asked you to pray about being a part of something –**

1) you never saw yourself doing

C) Everything in your brain is telling you NO WAY – 1) But the Holy Spirit in your heart is saying – YES WAY – he will strengthen you

D) Anything that you find yourself in because – God has brought you there – like Paul in Prison –

1) He will supply you with power...

Finally the third reason for Paul's Joy – Connection

A) Paul knew that one of the ways the Lord was going to strengthen him was – **through the assistance of others**

B) Paul could sing – **I get by with a little help from my friends**

C) His ministry had been greatly helped by the financial support of the Church in Philippi

D) Paul thanks the church at Philippi for their generous gift.

He compares their giving to three very familiar things.

A) A Fruit bearing tree (V.10 – V.14- 17)

V.10 10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

The word “flourished” V.10 carries the idea of a flower or tree budding or blossoming.

A)There was a time where the Church in Philippi’s support of Paul had stopped – planted that dried up

B)But through the sending of **Epaphroditus it was flourishing again**

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

C)Giving is like planting seeds – plant the seed and you water it and fruit is going to be the result.

When the church in Philippi was supporting Paul – the fruit that was coming out of that –

A)Gospel spread throughout the whole palace guard – the gospel spread to the household of Caesar

B)While he was in Prison he wrote 4 books in NT
1)That was all fruit from their giving!

C)But notice how Paul frames this – he actually mixes metaphors here: 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

D)The word account literally refers to interest accrued on the credit side of the ledger.
1)Or Interest accrued on the credit side of the ledger.

So Paul is also saying that giving is like investing:

A)You give here and you reap a spiritual investment – a partnership –

B)The People who gave to Paul were partnering with Paul and with the Lord in the ministry that God was doing through Paul

C)Same is true of those of you who give here at CV

1)We enter into a partnership with each other and with the Lord in the work that He does through CV

D)So every student that gets saved at camp – interest in your spiritual bank account

Every marriage healed – every person saved – every missionary sent –

A)You are investing in the kingdom – reap spiritual dividends

George Truett was a pastor in Dallas, Texas years ago— there are a lot of wealthy people in Dallas

B)One day **Pastor Truett was at the home of a very wealthy gentleman who had a lot of land.**

1)Standing on the upstairs patio of this enormous house the man pointed East where there were grain fields

C)And he said, everything your eye can see in that direction, I own.

D)The man pointed West where there were oil drills on them.

1)And I own everything in that direction.

E)Point North – Cattle - I own everything in that direction.

1)Pointed South - And I own everything in that direction.

Pastor George Truett put his hand on the rich man's shoulder and said, let me ask you a simple question.

A)He pointed up and said - How much do you own in that direction?

B)Great question – Jesus said – **we are to lay of treasures not here on earth but in heaven.**

C)How much are you laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven?

D)That is what happens as we partner with the Work of God through the local church – through our giving

1)We are investing in our spiritual bank account

E)Some are goers/doers – some are senders – but it is a partnership and all will be rewarded.

Paul saw their giving as a fruit bearing tree and an investment in the Kingdom –

A)But he also saw it as an act of worship

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

Aa)The highest motivation to do anything, to give anything- Is because it is well pleasing to God.

B) Why is it pleasing to God – not like he needs our money

1) Giving is not God's way of raising funds – but it is his way of raising kids

C) God could produce money like he produced MANNA – but he chooses to partner with human instruments

1) Just like in the sharing of the gospel – not Angels – animals/ Voices from the sky/ Broken people to reach broken people

D) He wants us to experience the blessing of being used by God

1) Same is true of giving –

E) God is a giver and he wants us to be givers too!

1) God loves a cheerful giver – He loves those who are generous in supporting the work of the ministry

Notice the promise that is connected to sacrificial giving as an act of worship V.19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

A) Most of you know that verse – many of you have quoted that verse but have you ever considered the context

B) The Context is financial giving partnering with the Lord through giving of our tithes and offerings

1) But this verse gets separated from its context all the time – just sort of this blanket statement – **repeat the verse**

C) You know, every text has a context. -- any text taken out of context can easily become a pretext.

1) You can make the Bible say anything at all you want it to if you take verses out of context

So every text has a context and the context of V.19 is giving

A) What Paul is saying to the Philippians is this: You have been so generous with your finances, and as a result my God will supply all your need.

B) In fact notice again the word full in V.18 Paul says as a result of their giving – I am full

1) and then notice the word supply in V.19

C) You see those two words? I am full. You made me full. Verse 19. God will supply.

1) In Greek, it's the exact same word.

D) In English, it's two different words. It's the same word in Greek. Pleroo.

1) It means to fill up or to fill to the brim.

E) Paul is saying in the Greek language. You've filled me up. My God is going to fill you up.

1) You made me full. My God will make you full

This isn't the only place where we see this promise in Scripture.

A) In the book of Malachi – God rebuked the nation of Israel for their lack of giving

“Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions.” Malachi 3:8

B) God gave this challenge

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” Malachi 3:10

C) So There is a blessing that comes from giving: -

1) But Note it is not the reason why we are to give but there is a benefit –

D) God says – I will open the windows of heaven

E) Similar Promises in the book of Proverbs

Proverbs 11:25. "The generous soul will be made rich. He who waters will himself also be watered."

Proverbs 22:9. "A generous man will himself be blessed."

Proverbs 3: 9. "Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first fruits of your increase so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine."

E) We can never out give God – and God who is a giver – invites us to be givers too!

1) Partner with him in the work of the Kingdom – He promises to bless us here when we do

So Paul likens giving to a fruit bearing tree, a spiritual investment and a Worshipful sacrifice

A) Paul found a reason for Joy in his contentment in Christ – His confidence in Christ – strengthen –

B) His connection to the Church

Concludes

20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Note V.23 again:

God is a giver – He gave his very best – his only begotten son - **Pay the price – sin**

We can be recipients of his grace

Grace is getting what we don't deserve

**Hell – Heaven –
Judgment – Reward**

Cast off – Brought near

Rebels – to partners

All the Result of Grace – Christ sacrifice