

## Philippians 1:1-11 A Joyful Heart

**Theme of the book of Philippians is Joy –**

**A) Joy and rejoice appear 16 times in 4 short chapters –**

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

**C) If you want to have a life marked by real joy, master the principles of the book of Philippians and it will be yours.**

**D) A joyful believer is a beautiful believer.**

**Note there is a difference between happiness and joy.**

**A) Happiness is vacillating, joy is fixed.** You can be going through horrible, unhappy circumstances, and yet have joy.

**B) Happiness depends on the happenings. Happiness depends on the happenstance.**

1) Circumstances are going well – we are happy / When it doesn't, you're unhappy

**C) Did you know that 2/3 of Americans claim to be unhappy. 2/3 of Americans claim to be discontented with life.**

**D) Happiness is based on happenings, circumstances**

**Joy is a deep-seated and enduring affection that endures**

**A) Joy is the result of something going on inside you because God's spirit resides there –**

**B) In this book Paul gives us some incredible insights into how to be people full of Joy**

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.

**The Church in Philippi had an interesting beginning**

**A) Paul had been praying about where the Lord wanted him to go next – Received Vision – man from Macedonia**

**B) Heads into that region – first stop is Philippi**

**C) But the first person He comes in contact w/ is a woman – Lydia meeting by the River**

1) Lydia was a business woman – seller of Purple from Thyatira

**So Paul was meeting w/ Lydia & her friends – when this Demon Possessed girl shows up –**

**A) She starts spouting off about Paul & Silas being servants of God – Paul kind of Ignores her for a few days – finally says stop**

**B) Cast the demon out of her / she is saved –**

1) But this caused problems because this particular girl was a slave girl who made her masters a lot of money from Fortune telling

**C) So they end up Protesting against Paul & Silas – they end up being beaten and thrown into Prison**

**Paul & Silas Prison – still filled with Joy –**

**A) Confidence God is in control - Singing at Midnight – Doors open –**

**B) Jailer wakes up sees doors open thinks all the prisoners have escaped & takes out his sword to Kill himself – Paul calls out – *don't We're all here***

**C) The Jailer gets saved & his whole household**

**That was the beginning of that Church / Started w/ a Unique group of people**

**A) Lydia a rich lady / A Demon Possessed girl  
A Jailer who was probably a Roman**

**B) Talk about an odd group/ Imagine gatherings**

1) Lydia shows up w/ some of her rich business friends

**C) The slave girl shows up w/ witches / people in the occult & the Jailer shows up w/ sheriff's department /**

1) Business crowd / Hells Angels / Police

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,  
<sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, <sup>5</sup> for your fellowship in the gospel

from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

<sup>9</sup> And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**As we continue tonight I want to make note of 4 ingredients for Joy we learn from Apostle Paul**

**A)#1 Paul rejoiced in the work God was doing in the church in Philippi –**

**B)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.

**Paul did not had 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.**

**Now I know that with some people, it takes a lot of creativity to do that.**

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

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

1))He focused on the good that God was doing

C)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. <sup>8</sup> 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 and affection he feels in his heart as He thinks about them.**

**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

So Paul's heart was filled with Joy at the work God was doing in them – focused on the positive not the negative

2<sup>nd</sup> His heart was filled with Joy because of their partnership in the gospel

#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;

The work that God is doing in our lives is a gradual work

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

B) Justification is the miracle of the moment

1) 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

And notice where he is working V.6 he who has begun a good work where? IN YOU

A) God's work is always an inside job before it's ever an outside job. - Always starts in the heart

B) 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!

C) He works in you before He works through you

DO YOU KNOW WHAT a Steinway piano, COST? \$120,000? – Bought one there other day! NO Just kidding

A) Sold 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 craftsmen 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 going on 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 & me He wants to make his music through us.

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

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

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

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

#### **A good work**

A) His plan is to make us more like Christ

B) So Paul's heart is filled with Joy because of the faithfulness of God – to work in his people

C) #4 Paul's heart is filled with Joy at the potential he sees for what God can do in them V.9-11

**V. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.**

Paul is praying that their love would abound

A) Love is the key to the Christian life

B) Jesus said – **They will know that you are my disciples by your love.**

**Interesting, one of the Church Historian's named Tertullian made mention in his writings that when the church started growing rapidly in the Roman Empire,**

A) that the government sent spies into different congregations

B) because they were afraid that this new group of citizens, these Christians, would be very disloyal to the Roman government.

1) So one of the spies, went into a church came back, and wrote this report.

**“These Christians are very strange people.” ☺ -**

So different from the norm

**They speak of one by the name of Jesus who is absent, but whom they seem to be expecting at any time.**

(One of the things that made – the Early church lived with a belief in the soon return of Jesus)

**And my how they love Him, and my how they love one another.**

**Interesting to me that an unbelieving spy in a Christian congregation made note of the fact that they loved one another so intensely.**

**Paul wants to see the Love of the Believers in Philippi abounding in 3 Areas.**

A) 1<sup>st</sup> In all knowledge and discernment

B) Knowledge speaks of understanding – Understanding a situation

C) Discernment is knowing what to say and when and how to say it. - How to respond

D) Sometimes a loving rebuke is in order /– other times a Hug

2<sup>nd</sup> Their love would be pure- **you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ**

A) **Look at the word sincere.** - The word sincere in English comes from 2 Latin words

B) Sine – Cera – make up our English word – sincere

C) Sine cera literally means without wax.

**See in ancient times, porcelain dealers and statue makers would sell their stuff.**

A) And sometime to cover up a crack or repair a break – they would put wax in that spot –

B) if you were looking at the piece on a table or even if you picked it up – hard to see

1) But if you held it up in the sunlight – you could see where it had been repaired – **the light would expose what the wax covered.**

C) So the merchants would put out a little sign for their products that said: Sine Cera or without WAX

1) THESE ARE NOT PHONIES – THESE ARE LEGIT – THESE ARE PURE

**So the idea is this, don't let your love be phony. Don't let it be mixed. Don't let it have an impure motive.**

**A)Romans 12:9 says "let love be without hypocrisy." That is, don't just pretend to love, really love.**

**B)So he prays their Love would have understanding and Discernment –**

**1)It would have Sincerity – be pure**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Their love would be purposeful**

**V11, "being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God."**

**B)The goal or purpose is the glory of God! – Big picture: God's glory – God's fame –**

**Let your light so shine before men in such a way see good works and do what?**

**Glorify your father who is in heaven**

**C)When we love rightly – not only do people like us – but God is glorified**

**So when Paul thought about the church in Philippi his heart was filled with Joy because:**

**#1 He focused on what God was doing - Positive rather than the negative**

**#2Their partnership in the gospel**

**#3 God's faithfulness to complete the work he had begun**

**#4 The potential he saw for continued growth**

**Our hearts will be filled with Joy as well as we focus on those same things**