

## Philippians 1:1-2 A Recipe for Unexpected Joy

**THEME:** As we make our way through this study, we learn to find joy in the most unlikely places.

A) Joy is not the absence of trouble, but rather the presence of Jesus.

B) One of the most infallible signs of the presence of God is joy. **"In His presence is fullness of Joy."**

1) It is an unmistakable badge of divine ownership.

C) I think a gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms.

1) I don't think anything has hurt the church over a period of history more so than the idea that a **sour, sullen, serious** believer should be the norm.

D) I don't know who came up with the idea that to be sanctified means to be sad, I reject that.

1) I don't think that was Jesus

E) Think about it, we are called to preach what's called the Gospel, which means the good news.

1) It's not called the bad-spel. – badnews

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

A) It's attractive. – CONTAGIOUS

**B) When somebody has joy, authentic, real joy, not the fake plastered on stuff**

1) It's attractive and people want to know where'd you get that.

C) I want to get me some of that. I want to have what you GOT.

1) I want to experience what you've experienced.

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

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

B) As we begin our study in this amazing I want to show you **TWO ingredients that form** I would call a recipe of unexpected joy.

1) 2 verses today – as sort of an intro

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 PAIR

A) Dynamic Duo / Batman & Robin / Lone Ranger & Tonto – Church – Paul & Timothy / 6 of Paul's letters ...greeting-

### B) HIS SON IN THE FAITH – LIKEMINED

1) Paul is the author of this book, LEADER - Timothy is his assistant,

C) Now, you wouldn't have associated the emotion of joy with the person of Paul before he met Christ.

1) SKEPTIC LISTEN UP – VALIDITY OF CHRIST

You see, before Paul the Apostle met Christ, what was his name? Saul of Tarsus.

A) And Saul of Tarsus was a very **religious, exacting, narrow-minded, legalistic Pharisee.**

B) Hardly anyone you would associate with being joyful.

1) In fact, in this letter of Philippians, Paul gives his background, his pedigree, so to speak, in chapter 3.

I'm going to read Chapter 3 verse 5 and 6 in the New Living Translation. He says, "I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family, that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. And zealous? Yes, in fact, I harshly persecuted the church. And I obeyed the Jewish law so carefully I was never accused of any fault."

C) Now that doesn't sound like a lot of joy is going on in Saul.

D) Sounds like a lot of judgment is going on in Saul. **EVEN JIHAD -**

1) Rules and Regulations anger – Destroy followers of Jesus - not JOY!!!

**In Acts chapter 9, Luke, the author, says this about Saul.**

A) "Saul, breathing out threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord." Do you get that language?

B)It was the very breath, the very air he took in. He was fixated on it, **preoccupied with damaging God's people.**

C)Same section of scripture says, "And Saul made havoc of the church, entering every house, dragging off both men and women."

D)The word made havoc was a word that was often used of an animal, **like a wild boar, who would trample a vineyard or a garden.**

1)Saul of Tarsus is this ANGRY wild dude – out for vengeance - So this guy did damage

**E)Doesn't sound like he's the ambassador of joy.**

**But something happened to Saul of Tarsus.**

A)Something happened TO HIM and subsequently something happened IN HIM

**B)He's on A MISSION - the Damascus Road,**

1)he gets knocked off his horse, sees a light from heaven, Jesus talks to him. **Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?**

C)Who are you Lord – Jesus of Nazareth the one you are persecuting

1)In other words: You come against my kids – you are coming against me

**D) Saul is thinking Wait – I watched you die – Now you are talking to me**

1)So it is true – YOU ARE RISEN FROM THE DEAD

E)What do you want me to do – Paul's Passion and Pursuit in those two questions – **who are you – and what do you want me to do**

**Saul of Tarsus has an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ that changes his life**

A)That is what the resurrection does – Face to face with a risen Lord is life Changing -

B)Paul this angry man is changed – MY DAD – ANGRY MAN

C)That's what happened to Saul

**D)And joy began to grow in him, he goes from being this guy who wants to destroy the MESSAGE of Jesus –**

1)To a guy who commits his whole life to sharing the MESSAGE OF JESUS

E)His zeal is put in a whole new direction

1)His whole perspective is changed- Life is marked by Joy

**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)It IS NOT connected to anything on the outside**

Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.

C)Paul's life was marked by that Joy – that confidence

**On his first missionary journey he goes to a place called Antioch of Pisidia,**

A)and the whole town rejects him, rejects his missionary team, they get kicked out of town.

B)And Paul the Apostle now, along with the others, **it says they were filled with joy, and with the Holy Spirit.** For getting kicked out of town?

C)It's because their joy, was tethered to something different, not the fluctuating up and down of worldly happiness.

- 1)IT WAS The confidence that they were exactly where God wanted them to be
- 2)and were doing exactly what he wanted them to do

**D)And it didn't hinge on what the outcome was.**

And this Saul of Tarsus, now Paul the Apostle, God changes him, and he changes from **legalism to lightheartedness.**

A)So when he's talking about keeping the laws, and rules, and regulations, like eating and drinking the right things

B)Religious leaders would not drink certain things or you would not eat certain things, he finally says in Romans 14:17, "**For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace, and joy.**"

C)When Paul feels led to go to Jerusalem – the religious center of Israel – his old stomping grounds – all his old Pharisee buddies are there.  
1)He wants to bring the message of Jesus to that Place – the message of Grace and peace and Joy

**D)Paul's friends warn him – you shouldn't go there – they hate you there.**

1)There will kill you –

E)This is how Paul responds - **though chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me. Nor do I count my own life dear to myself that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry that has been given to me by the Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 20:24**

**How's that for living your life?**

**I want to finish this thing up with joy, and I don't care if they arrest me and kill me.**

A)I've got joy they cannot be taken away.

B)So he goes to Jerusalem – ends up in Prison – shipped off to Rome  
1)Roman Dungeon – as he writes this book – cold damp – rat infested

C)He spends everyday in Chains - **And that is where he is writing this Manifesto of Joy – the book of Philipians**

1)He mentions Joy – 19 times in 4 chapters – Joy is dripping out of every chapter of this book –

D)Was Paul Crazy – Was he a Nut – not at all – **But Paul had been Changed**

1)His life has been Marked by the presence of Jesus – fragrance of Christ

**That is Paul – what about Timothy.**

A)Timothy is another one you would not naturally associate the emotion of joy with.

B)Timothy came from a tough home situation. He had mixed parentage.

1)One parent was Jewish, that was his mother Eunice, religious gal.-

C)Devout in Judaism as was his grandmother Lois – impact on his life

**C)But his dad was a Greek and not religious at all.**

1)My family mom – church – conflict – dad football

**They lived in the town of Lystra in Asia minor**

A)One day Paul the Apostle came through town, and he preached the good news, the gospel GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

B)Some were saved – **but The people in Lystra revolted against Paul – Acts 14 amazing**

C)Paul was stoned in Lystra – rocks –

D)Imagine that – Drag his outside of town Men are pelting you with rocks – until you die -  
1)Paul is left for dead

E)Everyone is crying – Paul is dead – God brings him back to life –

1)Rather than high tails it out of town – Paul goes back in – CRAZY - AMAZING

**The Result: Timothy becomes a follower of Christ – not only that but he wants to join Paul on his mission**

A)Sure his Dad wasn't thrilled about that –

B)But note this out of one of the most tragic and painful events in Paul's life out of that comes

**1)A SON – HIS SON IN THE FAITH**

Paul gets a Son – Timothy gets a spiritual DAD

**C) Out of that death comes a life - Before there can be a Resurrection – there has to be a death!**

1) BEFORE revival – there has to be a DYING

D) Timothy continues with Paul – ends up being the Pastor of one of the most impactful churches Paul ever started – Ephesus

**That's Timothy, we'll read more about him, consider him more as we go.**

A) But there is something here about these two – that I don't want you to miss – in it we see this First ingredient to a life of Joy

B) notice the Phrase that Paul uses to describe himself and Timothy

1) verse 1. "Paul and Timothy," what's the next word? **"Bond-servants of Jesus Christ."**

**C) The word bond-servant, doulos, describes a Willing Slave:**

1) 7 YEARS – Great Master – I am going to become a Willing Servant  
EAR PIERCED

D) Paul and Timothy made themselves – Bondservants of Jesus

1) Paul and Timothy's lives were filled with Joy – because they were not living for themselves.

**They had learned the secret – We were made to live in a relationship with God -**

**A) God's plan for all of us -**

B) Sin marred that relationship- Sin caused separation –

1) But Jesus came and died on the cross – bridge the gap – pay the price for our sins

C) Rose again – give LIFE - Make a way for that relationship to be restored

D) Paul and Timothy learned that **the secret to life and Joy was in living in a relationship with Jesus**

1) Serving Him – they made themselves willing servants – of the Risen Savior

**THINK ABOUT THIS: In our Declaration of Independence, we have a few guarantees.**

A) You're guaranteed life, you're guaranteed liberty, and you're guaranteed, tell me, the pursuit of happiness.

B) We have a country where people are pursuing happiness, the problem is nobody is finding it.

1) 2/3 of Americans claim to be unhappy. They're are looking for happiness, but they are not finding it.

B) Because real happiness, (true joy is a better term,) is not found by direct pursuit, **it's a byproduct of pursuing Christ and his will.**

**C) See As long as you live for yourself, and try to find peace and happiness and joy for yourself,**

1) you'll never find. You'll be miserable. You'll be hard to live with

**D) SELF IS NEVER SATISFIED – SELF IS A TYRANT**

1) You see, the more you do as you please, the less you will be pleased with what you do

Russell Brand - Our world is profoundly broken.

Technology, pop culture and social media have accelerated the worst impulses of human nature, and never has there been a time in history that humanity has more desperately needed the message of Jesus.

**Brand is on to something**

E) It's when you turn from yourself to HIS will, - When you say, forget me, I want to serve Him,

1) I want to be a bond-servant of JESUS, **the byproduct of that is LASTING joy.**

**Paul and Timothy found Joy in making themselves Bondservants of Jesus Christ –**

A) Now get this: A Bondservant is our perspective: I am yielded to and pledged to another –

B) His Bondservant

**B) Here is the perspective of Jesus: He told his disciples –**

1) I don't call you servants – I call you friends

C) There is great Joy in that – You yield yourself to Him as your Master

**But he is not a Tyrant – He is good – great**

A) He loves you – so much – He says – You are my friend –

B) Also calls us Bros / sisters – Sons and daughters

C) So that's the 1<sup>st</sup> ingredient to Joy – Paul and Timothy made themselves Bondservants of Jesus Christ.

D) The 2<sup>nd</sup> ingredient is to see God's purpose in the pain. –

1) Look again v. 1 and Notice who they are writing to.

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

Here is where we need to understand some background on how things started there in Philippi

A) The City of Philippi was located in the area of Macedonia –

B) Today - northern most province of GREECE/ bordering Albania

Here is what is interesting: Philippi was not on Paul's radar – He wasn't planning to go there.

A) On his second missionary journey, his plan was to go through Galatia, and then expand northward and southward.

B) That was his plan. But he got resistance.

1) You know who he got resistance from? God.

C) God resisted him going to the places he planned. God resisted him.

Psalms 37 says "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."

D) Oh, how we love that verse, but let me tell you another part of that truth.

1) The steps of a good man are also ordered by the Lord. Sometimes God says no.

And Paul discovered that. Acts 16. It said, "When they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia."

A) That's God saying no. "So they came to Mysia and they tried to go to Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them." So twice, God says no, no.

B) You can't go there, So he is puzzled.

He goes to a little place called Troas, which is a cool little beach town,

A) And while he, at Troas, gets a vision of a man from Macedonia.

B) Saying come over to Macedonia and help us.

1) So they wake up the next day and they go, I think God wants us to go there. That's how he goes.

C) Now it is interesting to note that Paul has a vision of a man in Macedonia – calling out –

D) 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 house hold

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/ sheriffs department /

1)Business crowd / Hells Angels/ Police

**Sounds like a Calvary Chapel**

**So that is how it started – Not sure – how long Paul was there**

A)BUT as Paul writes to them from Prison - notice again how Paul addresses them now

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

**B)To all the Saints: Religious tradition that named saints as Dead people who when they were alive – lived almost perfect lives**

C)Not God's view of a Saint – A saint is a set apart one – Every believer

1)SAINT OR AN AINT – SAINT - Set apart for God and by God.

**Paul is writing to the saints – plural – many – in Christ who are in Philippi With the Bishops – Pastors – and deacons**

A)This thing has grown – there are Saints – there are Pastors – there are Deacons

B)It is not just Sweet Lydia – and the girl who was Demon possessed and the Jailer and his family –

1)There is a bonafide Church there now

**Paul writing from a prison cell – can look back and rejoice –**

A)That was hard but that was worth it – Joy

B)Joy happens when you see God's purpose in the pain -

**B)But listen you might say – well what if when I look back – I can't see anything good that happened in that situation**

1)That is true many of us/ I have many situations like that – look back and I just see pain

C)Can't look back see Good – but– you can look up and look within

James 1:2-4 <sup>2</sup>My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and

complete, lacking nothing.

**Look up – My Father who loves me and is committed to me –**

A)Committed to completing the work that he began – Perfect – mature and complete

**B)Look within – to see He is changing me – I am growing**

C)In my life I can look back at many painful situations that did not have a happy ending –

1)Broken – tweaked – Scars

D)I am never going to fully understand those situations until I get to heaven and see them from God's perspective

**But I can look within – see a work that God did in my heart –**

A)See how he used that situation to work something into – made me better instead of bitter

B)Worked something into me – so that he could work something out of me that would be a blessing to others

**C)Scars – Symbol of one of two things – The event the memory the circumstance that ruined your life – marriage – caused bitterness and pain**

1)Or the symbol of the dynamic grace of God – that helped you grow

2)That made you stronger that made you better instead of bitter

D)Hebrews 12:1-2 **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

His Scars – Conquered so that we could be more than conquerors instead of those who are conquered by life.