

Series – Joy in Christ, a study of Philippians

Joy in Thanksgiving

Philippians 1:1-11

Three dollars of the Gospel quote

Just enough to make me happy

Question – Does God want us to be happy?

-joyful and free of worry in Christ – definitely

-comfortable with wealth and pleasure – not necessarily

-always getting my desire – surely not

The difference is what we call happy

Introduction to Philippians - a letter of Paul to the church of Philippi

Major city of Macedonia named after Philipp II, father of Alexander the Great

Written from prison (house arrest) in Rome about 64 AD

Reasons for Writing

1. Thanks for monetary gift

2. Report of his situation in prison

3. to encourage the believers

4. to exhort them to humility and unity

5. to commend Timothy and Epaphroditus

6. To warn them of false teachings

Themes

Joy – mentioned 16 times in the 104 verses

Christ – 18 times, Gospel 6 times,

Lifestyles of a believer – humility, sacrifice, unity, discipline

Joy in Thankfulness 1:1-11

Greetings – From Paul and Timothy to all the saints (holy ones) 1-2

Even the elders (overseers) and helpers (deacons)

Grace from God and Peace of God

I. I have you in my mind – Remembrance

3-6

Thanksgiving for all they had done for him

Joy in praying for them

Partnership in the Gospel

Initially and enduring

Confidence in God

He began the work – not Paul

He is still working through His Holy Spirit

He will complete His work in them and in the world

There is coming a final day – glory or shame at Christ's return

Goal in mind – completion

II. I have you in my heart – Affection

7-8

Shared together the Grace of God

Imprisonment, Defense of the Gospel, Confirmation

Longing to see them and God working in them

Compassion of Christ

III. I have you in my prayers – Petition

9-11

Prayer for their Love to increase

Not for their protection or comfort

That love would overflow on others

Prayer for real knowledge of God

Not about God but know God

Know height, depth and length of God's love

Prayer for their understanding of God's plan

Understanding what really matters in life

So that – to produce

Pure lives - blameless lives (not faultless)

Endure faithful till Christ returns

Fruitful lives – full of the righteousness of Christ

In unity with each other and with Christ

To bring Glory (worship) and praise (rejoicing)

To God the source of all good

Joy in Thanksgiving to God

Remembrance

Family and friends

Those who shared the Gospel with you

Deliverance from bondage of sin

Protection in times of crises

Idea – Praise Journal

Love for those who

Surround you in love

Stand with you in crises

Confirm in you the gifts of the Spirit

Encourage you in your service to God

Idea – Letter of thanks

Prayer for others (it's not all about you)

In tough situations

In need of help

In need of guidance from God

Idea – Prayer list

Praise to God Almighty

Give Him all the Glory – honor

Give Him all Praise – rejoicing

Next week - Joy in the Gospel *Philippians 1:12-18*