

Series Title: Joy in All Circumstances

Text: Philippians 4

Introduction:

There is no way possible that we can be happy about life all the time. Circumstances often dictate how we feel at a given moment, but those circumstances should be viewed in light of Scripture and God's direction over our lives. For Paul this meant suffering, encouraging churches, and helping others to share the Gospel of Jesus.

In Philippians 4 Paul encourages the church to Rejoice and do it often. Rejoicing in the Lord comes when we see His hand in our lives, active around us, or we clearly sense God's peace over and above our circumstances. Even when we can't see all that God is doing, we can rejoice in His love for us.

However, rejoicing in the Lord does not happen by accident. We choose to focus on Christ, we choose to worship Him, we choose to praise Him for His faithfulness to us, for His great love for us, for who He is and for what we know He's done.

Discussion:

It is easy to compare what we have with others. We can spend too much time on Facebook, or we can become jealous of what others have that we don't. What are some things that help you rejoice in the Lord?

Why does God want us to rejoice in Him?

Philippians 4:8-9 speaks of thinking on things that are praiseworthy. Paul mentions several. What did Paul suggest?

Over your life span, who are some of the people who have helped you to draw closer to the Lord? What did they teach you?

Examination:

Whenever we study the Bible, we must be cautious about taking one verse here and one verse there without knowing the context of the passage. We

should read the entire chapter, even the chapters that precede and follow the passage. This is important because it helps us know the full story, and it protects us from forming an idea that was not the original intent of the writer.

What specific issue was Paul talking about when he said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”?

Unified in Christ

As Paul mentioned, he could be content because it was through Jesus Christ that he received his strength. What does it mean to say, “through Christ”?

One of the ways we are united with Christ is by living according to His Word and making the things that are His priority our priority. What does it mean to invest in the Kingdom of God?

Paul shares with the church of Philippi that their gifts to him will be credited to their account. God will not miss their support or kindness shown to Paul, and they will be rewarded for such grace.

Application

What are some situations that God has walked you through that in the end brought you Joy?

Is Joy based on good health and finances alone?

Are there some things in your life where God is encouraging you to be content? What are those?

How we live our lives and treat others is important to God, not just accomplishing things for Him. What are you thankful for today? Is there a hymn or Christian song that helps you rejoice? Listen or sing that song to the Lord and thank Him for who He is in your life.