

Series Title: Joy in Sacrifice

Text: Philippians 1

Introduction:

We will never be happy, as in filled with energy and enthusiasm, every moment of our lives. But we can have joy knowing that as we yield our lives to God, God will reveal His Ways to us. We can have joy knowing no matter what we face, God is in charge of our lives; and He is with us.

Discussion.

Why was Paul so thankful for the church in Philippi? (See Phil. 4:16, 1:4-5). How do we support God's work at The Worship Place and around the World?

Paul told the church that he knew he was in chains for the gospel, what did he mean by this? (See Phil. 1:12-14).

Do you see things in your life that God is using to help people know Jesus better? Are these all things you enjoy experiencing?

What could Paul have done to avoid persecution? Would that have been a good idea or bad idea?

Examination:

What did Jesus mean when He told the disciples that they must pick up their cross (Luke 9:23)? How often is this to be done, and why is it such a challenge?

Unified in Christ

Paul made references to Jesus throughout the letter he wrote to Philippi. In light of this:

What is the Gospel of Jesus? (John 3:16)

What does "To live is Christ, to die is gain" mean (Phil. 1:20-22)?

Did Paul want to die or live?

Application

Whenever Jesus gave the invitation to be one of his disciples, he said they must deny themselves, pick up the cross, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). This was something God gave them to do that would cost them something, maybe even their own lives.

What are some things in your life you believe were crosses for you that God used to encourage others to know Jesus better?

What are some things you are experiencing now that God is using to help others know Him better?

What would you tell a fellow Christian who is not experiencing joy amongst the suffering in their life today?