**The Joy of Death**

**Text**: Phil. 3:1-11

Key Verse: Phil. 3:1,10-11 - Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe… that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11**if, by any means, I may attainto the resurrection from the dead.

**Introduction**:

Paul is the writer of the book of Philippians and he is writing a thank you note to the believers for their help in his hour of need. His central thought is simple: Only in Christ are real unity and joy.

Philippians - Joy – 6x’s, Rejoice – 9x’s;

Joy – a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.

**Things that bring You joy?**

What is the #1 thing that brings joy to Americans?

Money? Good looks? Popularity?

According to a report by The Journal of [*Personality*](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/personality)and Social Psychology, all these mentioned life goodies were topped by the biggest life goodie of them all:***"autonomy"***- defined as***"the feeling that your life - its activities and habits -- are self-chosen and self-endorsed."***

In fact, when you're upset about something in your life - a[*love*](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/relationships)break up, a job problem, your weight- it's usually because you're feeling as if you're no longer in control of this area your life and big time lacking autonomy

3:1 – Finally – (after Paul has encouraged them to have unity, commended them in their obedience, commended Timothy to them, and praised Epaphroditus and thanked God for having mercy upon Him, here is what Paul wants them to know.

 **REJOICE IN THE LORD!**

Repetition, Repetition, Repetition -(3:1) No trouble, need reminding.

 Ex. – Wives --- Need to know they are loved (reminding).

I told you when I married you, If I change my mind I will let you know.

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say Rejoice. (Phil. 4:4)

Cf. 1 Thess. 5:16 – Rejoice Always

What do we usually rejoice about?

 Birthdays Anniversaries Sports Victories Big Accomplishments

**Caution**: (Caution Flag)

1. Beware of dogs, evil workers, & Mutilation. (Mutilation of the flesh)
	1. People who are out to destroy you or the work of God
	2. Cf. 2:21 - For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

**Rejoice**

 We are of the circumcision - covenant relationship with God. (Gen. 17:11 – Abram)

 We worship God in spirit.

 Rejoice in Christ & have no confidence in the flesh!

Our rejoicing / confidence -should be because of Jesus not because of the flesh

**Illustration about Confidence** – DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) agent shoots himself in the foot.

Glock 40 – I am the only one in room professional enough to handle this gun…

<https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=3eaae1c65f999c43&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS937US937&sxsrf=AE3TifMR34cPGfrpx6RnWbJS4iD2zqJSWQ:1752010271421&q=DEA+(Drug+Enforcement+Administration)+agent+shoots+himself+in+the+foot.&udm=7&fbs=AIIjpHxU7SXXniUZfeShr2fp4giZud1z6kQpMfoEdCJxnpm_3UK3oyqvhV9opp98EEM6wbwHzDo1FKQA4Ghovh3mhAD4mvq3u94VSBwROsr2SRW_QsNhBkiQArMASqGLEYbI4B35Fg5omhw4E6kTfrjU6UnmyV9etX8i0oaGlwPfXFjMUFWaQNW6BkYmefQfIEcKbCpjAphKmE7Iik8MDtjfR0jlVZ6hHQ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj8nPPumq6OAxUN_skDHcZaAcEQtKgLKAF6BAgUEAE&biw=842&bih=726&dpr=2#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:2c53652b,vid:q8PzUD67JO0,st:0>

If anyone had something to be confidence about (joyful about), it would be Paul.

* Circumcised the 8th day (v.5)
* Stock of Israel (v.5)
* Tribe of Benjamin (v.5)
* Hebrew of Hebrews (v.5)
* Concerning the law, a Pharisee (v.5)
* Concerning zeal = persecuting Christians (v.6)
* Concerning righteousness = blameless (v.6)

All these things he counted as loss for Christ’s sake.

* We typically think that we have joy when we have achieved some success in man’s standards.
	+ We make all a’s in school.
	+ We obtained the job we always wanted.
	+ We have 15 letters behind our degree name.
	+ When we pay off our debts

When we are physically fit, have the newest car, the biggest house, the most money, etc.

**Phil 3:8-10** - Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the **knowledge** of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ **9**and be found in Him, not having my own **righteousness**, which is from the law, but that which is **through faith in Christ**, the righteousness which is **from God by faith; 10**that I may **know** Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being conformed to His death, 11if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

**v. 10 – crux of the matter. - We can rejoice when**

1. We Know Christ

2. Power of His resurrection

3. fellowship in His suffering

4. Conformed to His death.

5. Attain a resurrection from the dead = eternal life = HOPE

 **Joy Through Death because we have Hope**

 **Joy Through Death**.

**1 Cor. 2:2** - For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

**Gal. 2:20** - I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Gal. 5:24**- And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**Rom. 6:1-6** - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? **2**Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? **3**Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4**Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5**For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of *His* resurrection, **6**knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him,* that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

**When we are baptized into Christ we have:**

All spiritual blessings – Eph. 1:3

Newness of life. Rom. 6:4

Forgiveness of Sins & gift of Holy Spirit - Acts 2:38

Rom. 6:23 – eternal life.

2 Timothy 2:11 – faithful saying, “For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.

I want to be with God, I want to live in His presence. - this is our hope & dream.

**Illustration**:

 “Keep your Fork”

A woman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and given three months to live. She asked her Preacher to come to her home to discuss her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at her funeral, and what scriptures she wanted read, and which outfit she wanted to be buried in. Then she said, “One more thing… I want to be buried with a fork in my hand.” The preacher was surprised.

The woman explained, “In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably say to everyone, **‘Keep Your Fork**.’ It was my favorite time of the dinner, because I knew something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie – something wonderful.

So, I want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and wonder, “What’s with the fork?” Then, I want you to tell them, “Keep Your Fork, because the best is yet to come.”

The only way that you can have true joy in by being in Christ.

Philippians - “In Christ” - 21x’s

The only way that you can be “in Christ” is to die to self and make JESUS you Lord & Savior of your life.

You do that by symbolically doing what He did.

Die to self, buried with Him in the act of baptism, & Raised up as He was raised on the 3rd day.

If you are looking for true joy that will last in physical things, you will look in all the wrong places & never find it!

If you want true joy you must be conformed to Christ’s death. And by death you will live.

That is why we are here – The death, burial, & resurrection of JC.

**Jn. 15:11** – Joy may be full (Only be made full in Christ.)