

The Secret to Joy

June 24, 2012

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19

Vol. 2 Num. 25

Core Competency:

Joy- I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love. "I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. (John 15:10-11)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

③ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

Introduction

Although Turkey is a secular country with no official religion, approximately 99% percent of the population is registered as Muslim. In the early nineties, a Turkish newspaper, with a large distribution, exposed an entire Christian missionary community in Ankara. They published the missionaries' names and addresses, explained what they were doing, and listed discipleship material they had been using. It seemed that the Ankara missionary efforts had been critically wounded. However, the newspaper made one mistake. They printed the phone number where people were supposed to call to request a free copy of the discipleship book they used. Within one week, over six hundred Turks had called in for their free copies! While their immediate circumstances became quite difficult, the gospel was being advanced!

This is the same sentiment that Paul expressed in this week's passage. When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he was in prison. As if that was not frustrating enough, "others" seemed to come out of the woodwork intent on stirring up trouble for him. While Paul could have viewed these circumstances as a giant roadblock to God's plan, he saw it as an opportunity. That is because Paul trusted God. He knew, even as we can know, that when we place our lives in God's hands, no trouble or hardship goes to waste. His trust wasn't tied to certain circumstances or a specific outcome. His faith and his hope were bound up in God's redemptive purposes for this world. Thus he could rejoice regardless of what was happening to him.

This Week

As you study this passage, reflect on the wonder of your salvation through Jesus Christ. Thank God for His provision for your sin. Ask God to use every part of your life to proclaim the gospel. Finally, humbly rejoice, because God is willing to use you, in whatever circumstance you may find yourself, to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to a world that is desperately in need.

3. What do the following passages indicate about God's ability to use all circumstances for his glory? If you have time, consider the extraordinarily difficult circumstances that are the context for each of the passages.

- Genesis 50:20

- Esther 4:14

- Daniel 3:17-18

4. a) How is your perspective, your attitude, and even your relationship with the Lord affected by your circumstances or your expectations?

b) How might faith and trust potentially change your perspective?

5. Think about those described in verses 15-17. What do you think that this passage may suggest about our motives and God's ability to use us?

6. What, if anything, can you do so that your life would more continuously proclaim the gospel in spite of difficulty? (Be as specific as possible).

Sermon Notes:

③LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

Some people defend preachers of the popular “health-and-wealth” gospel by applying vv. 15-19. For example, the typical application of this verse is seen in statements like:

“We should not make a big deal or condemn preachers of false health-and-wealth gospel teaching (like what is rampant on television) because they agree that Jesus is the Christ and the only way to heaven. We should be glad that Jesus is preached.”

As a group, discuss the appropriateness of such an application. Is this what Paul meant? Why or why not?

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ