

**The 14th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 15, 2019**  
**“Joy Ride: A Study of Philippians ~ Marks of the Christian Life”**  
**Philippians 1:1-11**

“I thank God for every time I remember you.” (1:3)

What’s interesting is that Paul’s memories brought no \_\_\_\_\_, but only joy; and he makes no mention of the \_\_\_\_\_ things that happened to him while he was in Philippi.

Instead of rehearsing the negative things that happened in Philippi, Paul chooses to \_\_\_\_\_.

We have a choice—we can look over our shoulder and focus on everything we didn’t \_\_\_\_\_; the things we missed out on; the rotten things that happened to us; and the people who have \_\_\_\_\_ us. However, if we do that, we’ll only become \_\_\_\_\_, critical, and unthankful. Or we can choose to focus on the positive and dwell on the \_\_\_\_\_ that we’ve experienced—sometimes even in the midst of the negatives. That’s what Paul does here and it helps him to experience \_\_\_\_\_—despite his circumstances.

#### **4 MARKS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**Mark #1. Christian**\_\_\_\_\_.

Joy is very different from \_\_\_\_\_, which is tied to our \_\_\_\_\_. However, running deeper and stronger, joy is a way of looking at, and relating to life, that’s not \_\_\_\_\_ on our circumstances

It’s an \_\_\_\_\_ that stems from our \_\_\_\_\_ in God and the belief that no matter what happens, God is present, in control, and working.

• **There’s joy in** \_\_\_\_\_.

“...constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you...” (1:4)

Being able to come to the One who created the entire universe in prayer, as His children, and call Him “Abba, Father,” is one of our greatest \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ we have as believers.

“Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

**Do you find joy in prayer—in bringing your cares and concerns  
and those who you love to God?**

• **There’s joy in** \_\_\_\_\_ **Christ.**

“What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice...” (1:18)

After we’ve experienced the love, grace, forgiveness, and new life that Jesus offers us, we can’t help but \_\_\_\_\_ it!

**Do find joy in preaching Jesus?**  
**Have you told anyone about the gospel recently?**

• **There’s joy in** \_\_\_\_\_.

“Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith...” (1:25)

Joy is based on our \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s love, power, and wisdom

“Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!” (Nehemiah 8:10)

**How would you describe your faith?**  
**Is the joy of the Lord your strength?**

• **There’s joy in** \_\_\_\_\_.

“...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” ( 2:2)

There’s nothing greater than a church whose members are \_\_\_\_\_ with each other because they’re one in \_\_\_\_\_.

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

**Do you strive for fellowship and unity in all your relationships?**

• **There’s joy in** \_\_\_\_\_ **for Christ.**

“But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.” (2:17-18)

Paul gave his entire \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of the gospel. He suffered so many hardships in the name of \_\_\_\_\_. And he did so with \_\_\_\_\_. He knew that in sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, he’d also share in Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_.

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (3:10-11)

**How do you view suffering? How willing are you to suffer  
for Jesus and for the sake of the gospel?**

- **There's joy in being**\_\_\_\_\_.

“Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,  
stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.” (4:1)

To enter into the presence of a \_\_\_\_\_ God, we must be hidden in the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. To be “in Christ” means that God no longer sees  
our \_\_\_\_\_, but the righteousness of His own Son.

This is the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ of being a followers of Jesus—and one that I  
think is so easily taken for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Do you take this for granted? Are you conscious of your spiritual position  
in Christ everyday?**

“For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy  
in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)

**Is Christian joy one of the marks of your life?**

**Mark #2. Christian** \_\_\_\_\_.

“...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” (1:5)

**Fellowship = *koinonia* =**

- **We are partners in** \_\_\_\_\_.

We all \_\_\_\_\_ and all fall short of God's glorious \_\_\_\_\_. However, we  
also all owe a common debt to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing;  
it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph 2:8-9)

- **We are partners in the work of the** \_\_\_\_\_.

We not only share a gift, we share a \_\_\_\_\_.

“It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your  
heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in  
the defence and confirmation of the gospel.” (1:7)

**Defence = *apologia* =**

**Confirmation = *bebaisios* =**

- **We are partners in** \_\_\_\_\_ **for the gospel.**

Whenever we suffer for the sake of Christ, we can find strength and comfort in the  
fact that we're part of a great \_\_\_\_\_ who have suffered for Christ  
rather than \_\_\_\_\_ their faith.

“Resist [the devil], steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and  
sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.” ( 1 Peter 5:9)

- **We're partners with** \_\_\_\_\_.

“For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ  
Jesus.” (1:8)

***Splagchna* =**

Paul is saying that his longing for the Philippians is a \_\_\_\_\_  
longing—nothing less than the love of Christ Himself.

When we're one with Jesus, His \_\_\_\_\_ goes out through us to our others,  
whom He also loves and for whom He died.

“And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our  
hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

**Is Christian partnership one of the marks of your life?**

**Mark #3. Christian** \_\_\_\_\_.

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring  
it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (1:6)

\_\_\_\_\_ is the good work that God does in us when we trust in His  
Son, Jesus; and we bring nothing to the table but the \_\_\_\_\_ that made it  
necessary. This is \_\_\_\_\_ process that God will continue in us  
through the Holy until we see Christ.

“Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed.  
What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see  
him as he is.” (1 John 3:2)

Paul sees every Christian life as a \_\_\_\_\_ offered to Jesus. The only  
gift that Jesus desires from us is \_\_\_\_\_. And so, our supreme task is  
to make our lives here and now \_\_\_\_\_ to offer to Him.

Only the \_\_\_\_\_ of God can enable us to do this.

**Is Christian sacrifice one of the marks of your life?**

**Mark #4. Christian \_\_\_\_\_.**

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” (1:9-11)

Paul prays that the Philippians would grow greater in \_\_\_\_\_, because love impels us to act \_\_\_\_\_ in all things, even in the minor affairs of life. In addition, he calls them to add knowledge, \_\_\_\_\_, and insight.

Love is always the way of knowledge; and Paul wants \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to grow together.

If we love Jesus, we'll want to \_\_\_\_\_ more about Him and His \_\_\_\_\_; and be more sensitive to His \_\_\_\_\_ and His desires. And the more we love Him, the more we'll instinctively shrink from what's \_\_\_\_\_ and desire what's right.

**Determine = *dokimazo* =**

Real love isn't \_\_\_\_\_; it always enables us to see the \_\_\_\_\_ between true and false.

Paul is praying that the Philippians would be able to express their \_\_\_\_\_ in ways that show knowledge of how to make \_\_\_\_\_ decisions based on God's \_\_\_\_\_ in the give-and-take of everyday living.

The purpose of all this is so they might be able to not only distinguish between good and evil, but also between what is good and what is \_\_\_\_\_; that they'd know what is \_\_\_\_\_ in religion.

Paul is praying that his readers would be able to discern and \_\_\_\_\_ those \_\_\_\_\_ which are vital to the peace and \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

Such devotion to the Gospel will keep the Philippians \_\_\_\_\_ and blameless until the final day when they're called to stand before Christ. The ultimate goal of all this, Paul writes, is so that their lives will bring glory and praise to \_\_\_\_\_.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5)

**Is Christian growth and fruit one of the marks of your life?**



“Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion—it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more like Christ.” (Billy Graham)

A good way to measure how far we are in this process of \_\_\_\_\_ is the extent to which these 4 marks of the Christian life are \_\_\_\_\_ in our life.

**When you look back over your life are the negatives all that you can see, or like Paul, do the countless blessings that you've received in Christ overshadow them? Are you living the life of joy that God would have you live?**

**Notes:**