

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 22, 2019
“Joy Ride: A Study of Philippians ~ The Habits of Joyful Living”
Philippians 1:12-30

Another way that we can measure Christian _____ is what it takes to rob us of our _____.

4 KILLJOYS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Paul’s spiritual maturity is evident in the fact that he makes it very clear that the difficult, _____, painful, even life-threatening circumstances that he experienced didn’t _____ him of his joy, but actually caused it to _____. And so in Paul, we have a concrete example of how to be joyful no matter what our _____.

Instead of focusing on the _____; instead of bemoaning his situation or _____ about his impending death–Paul chooses _____. He chooses to focus on how God has used his situation to _____ the gospel.

“Whatever happens, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the Good News of Christ.” (27)

It’s not our circumstances that matter, but how we _____ to them–how we give _____ to God in the midst of them.

4 HABITS OF JOYFUL LIVING

Habit #1. Look at life from God’s _____.

The way we _____ at a problem is far more important than the problem itself.

Joyful people have a _____ perspective and a bigger _____ –they see the big picture. When I don’t have the big picture; when I don’t see things from God’s perspective, I can get discouraged, frustrated, and unhappy because I can’t see what God’s _____.

The truth is, no matter what’s going on in your life, God is _____. He can use anything–my sins, my faults, my bad choices, what other people do to me–and weave them into His _____.

“I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me has helped spread the Good News.” (12)

As a royal prisoner with a royal guard, Paul would have _____ to all kinds of people he’d never have otherwise had the opportunity to talk to.

ROMANS 8:28 THINKING

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

If we love God and if we’re called according to His purposes, He promises to weave everything that happens in our lives for _____ –in His way and in His time.

This thinking allows us to see not just with our _____ eyes, but with the eyes of _____ –from God’s perspective and not just from our own. It allows us to remain _____ even when things seem to be falling apart.

Habit #2. Don’t let others control our _____.

“Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defence of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment.” (15-17)

4 KINDS OF PEOPLE

- _____. Those who were _____ him and creating all kinds of controversy;
- “It is true that some preach Christ because they are jealous and quarrelsome.” (15)
Quarrelsome = *eris* =

When people criticize us they’re usually _____ of us.

We all want to be _____ we all want _____; we all want everybody to _____ us. However, we don’t need other people’s approval to be joyful. Nor do we need their _____. Joy is our _____.

Who are the critics in your life?

- _____. These are the people who _____ with Paul in the ministry of the Gospel–his comrades and friends. Those who stood by him, supported him, and _____ with him.
- “Others preach Christ from genuine good will. They do so out of love, and they know that God’s given me the work of defending the gospel.” (15-16)

Who are the good guys in your life?

- _____. There people in Christian ministry who have a _____ problem—they make ministry all about them; and tend to put others down in order to build themselves up.

“Others preach Christ insincerely from a spirit of selfish ambition.” (17)

Who are the competitors in your life?

- _____. (P) These are the _____ makers in our lives; the emotional _____ who use witty remarks, sharp words, insults, threats, manipulation, control and gossip, to mess us up and make our problems worse. “Other people just want to stir up more trouble for me. They want to add to my pain while I’m in prison.” (17)

Who are the conspirators in your life?

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...” (18)

I’m going to focus on _____ and choose _____!

“Don’t be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself.” (28)

“For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. We are in this fight together. You have seen me suffer for him in the past, and you know that I’m still in the midst of a great struggle.” (29-30)

It’s a _____ to suffer when we’re doing the _____ thing and it’s a privilege to suffer _____ Christ and _____ Christ.

Habit #3. Trust God to _____ things out.

When things are falling apart, instead of trying to fix them ourselves, we need to let _____ put them back together. This is the _____ factor. To put it another way: When we’re going through a problem we’ve got two options. We can _____ or we can _____.

“I will continue to rejoice for I know that as you pray for me and as the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, all that’s happened will all turn out for my deliverance.” (19)

3 SOURCES OF STRENGTH

- **Confident** _____. “I know.”

This is _____ that God is working no matter how bad it is.

- _____. “...as you pray for me..”

Knowing that you’re being _____ and _____ in prayer during a difficult time can be a tremendous source of comfort and strength.

- **Holy Spirit** _____. “...as the Spirit of Jesus helps me...”

It’s not our _____ that will help us endure the tough times, but rather the strength and power of the _____ working in and through us.

Habit #4. Focus on our _____ and not our _____.

“If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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...” (22-25)

There is one thing they couldn’t take from him, and that was his _____. We can’t control much of what happens to us, or what other people do to us, but we can control how we _____. Instead of focusing on his problems and responding in anger, resentment, or fear, Paul chose to focus on his purpose to _____ God by serving others.

Paul had a purpose in life and _____, however, for the sake of the Philippians, he was willing to stay alive until they learned the _____ of joyful living.

The way to true and lasting joy is _____, not self-gratification. The reason Paul was joyful was because as long as he was alive, he was giving his _____ away to help others.

Are you living for others or are you living for yourself?

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (21)

“**For me to live is** _____”

Nothing deserves to fill in that blank except the One who _____ us and gave us life. How we fill in that blank will determine how _____ we are in life.



Think about your own life. Think about everything that’s happened to you—and everything thing that might happen in the future—how will you respond? How joyfully are you living?