

Thanksgiving Sunday ~ Sunday, October 13, 2019
“Joy Ride: A Study of Philippians ~ How To Boost Your Joy”
Philippians 2:19-30

- We’ve learned that joy isn’t the same as _____, which is tied to our _____, and therefore can be _____ and uncertain.
 - We’ve learned that joy is an _____ we choose to adopt; an approach to life, rather than a _____ to it; based on our _____.
 - We’ve learned that although joy is primarily the work of the _____ in and through us, as we _____ submit to God and seek to die to self; we do have a _____ to play. That when it comes to joy, we need to to be _____ and proactive or we can easily lose it, give it away, or have it _____ from us.
- We’ve learned about 5 spiritual _____ that we can do to help us maintain a joyful heart.

In the 2nd half of Philippians Chapter 2, Paul teaches us another lesson about joy—that unlike happiness, joy isn’t just a matter of _____; it’s not random or accidental, but something that can be _____ and developed.

He goes on to endorse Timothy and Epaphroditus as _____.

THREE REASONS FOR SENDING THEM

- “So that I may be cheered.” (2:19)
- “So that you may be glad.” (2:28)
- “...so that I may have less anxiety.” (2:28)

Whatever these two guys were doing, however they we’re living, it was going to make Paul and the Philippians more _____ and less _____.

4 JOY BOOSTERS

Joy Booster #1: Shift the _____ away from _____.

“I have nobody else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everybody else looks out for their own interests...” (2:20-21)

Can you name the people in your life who are looking out for your interests?

Most people look out for their own _____—it’s human _____.
I tend to think about me and you tend to think about you!

2 IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT TIMOTHY

- **He is _____.** “There is no one else like him...” (2:20)
In other words, _____ people are generally very _____.
- **He is _____.** “...who takes a genuine interest.” (2:20)
People may show an interest in us, but it’s often _____, shallow, or not

genuine.

What Paul is talking about here is a matter of _____. Like Timothy, we need to shift our focus away from _____ to other people. This is something we have to _____ to do. And it’s easier said than done because everything in our culture and everything in our nature teaches us to be _____.

“Do not be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.” (1 Cor 10:24)

Joy Booster#2: Become someone people _____.

“Timothy has proven himself, because as a son with his father, he has served with me in the work of the gospel.” (2:22)

Timothy is the real deal. He’s _____, genuine, trustworthy. You can count on him. He’s been _____, tested, verified, checked out and is _____.

Have you been proven? Are you trustworthy?

Everyone around us—especially our non-Christian friends and family—are constantly doing a _____ on us every moment of our lives. Are we what we say we are? Are we the _____? Or are we just phony balonies, wearing masks and _____?

DEVELOPING A REPUTATION FOR RELIABILITY

- **Live with _____.**

Integrity = *integer* =

It means being _____; that we’re walking the walk and not just talking the talk; that our lives aren’t _____. This isn’t always easy to do in a world that teaches us to divide our lives into _____.

“Reliable friends who do what they say are like cool drinks in sweltering heat—refreshing.” (Proverbs 25:13)

Are you like a cool drink? Can people count on you or do you flip flop?

“Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot.” (Proverbs 25:19)

The greatest ability is _____.

Are you dependable? Are you worthy of trust?

- **Keep your _____.**
“When a man makes a vow to God or binds himself by an oath to do something, he must not break his word; he must do exactly what he has said.” (Numbers 30:2)

“People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.” (Proverbs 10:9)

Joy Booster #3. Learn how to _____ well with others.

This is the ability to be a _____ and not a lone wolf or control freak. This involves _____; working together; and pooling our gifts, talents, and abilities for the greater _____.

2 LESSONS

Lesson #1: _____.

“I send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, my fellow worker, and my fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.” (2:25)

Epaphroditus was far more than just a servant, but _____ in the gospel. In other words, he wasn’t a _____, prima donna, or a maverick, but a team player.

3 RELATIONAL METAPHORS

- _____ is a _____ word. This means that we’re all _____! If you know the Lord, the people sitting next to you are your brothers and sisters, in _____.
- _____. As followers of Jesus, we share the same Great _____ and have the same common _____, and so we are to work and serve together.
- _____. Life can sometimes be a _____. And Paul tells us in Ephesians that our battle isn’t primarily _____, but _____, with the unseen forces that are working against us. Since we share a common battle, with a common _____, we need to stand together and support one another.

Lesson #2: _____

“Now I must send [Epaphroditus] back to you, because he longs to see all of you. He’s been worried about your distress since you heard that he was sick.” (2:26)

“You must get along with each other! You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

We need to cultivate consideration in our _____. Paul is clear here that we have to cultivate a _____ life together, through consideration. We have to be thoughtful of the _____ or words and actions have on other people.

It takes intelligence, _____, and _____ to be considerate—to stop and think about how our words might affect another person.

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

Joy Booster #4. _____ for something worth _____ for.

Often we can give big-time _____ to small-time causes that aren’t going to last.

The best use of our life is to _____ it in that which will _____ it. In fact, we’re not ready to _____ live, until we know what’s worth dying for. And until we figure this out, we’re not living, but _____.

“Indeed, he was very ill, and he almost died...he risked his life for the work of Christ, and was at the point of death while trying to do for me the things you couldn’t do because you were far away.” (2:27-30)

Epaphroditus was a godly _____—he gambled his life for Jesus. And even though he got sick on the way and almost died, he didn’t stop or turn back, but was _____ in completing his mission—to _____ what he started.

What commitment have you started that you haven’t finished?

Is your commitment to Christ deep enough to cause you to sacrifice?

It’s easy to live for Christ as long as it’s _____ and _____, but what about when it’s inconvenient and uncomfortable? That’s why people like Timothy and Epaphroditus are so _____. That’s why the Bible tells us to _____ people like this—people who take _____ sharing the Gospel.

What risks have you taken for the gospel?

None of us are _____ from this. Being a follower of Jesus isn’t a _____ sport, and God didn’t call you to this church to sit on the sidelines and watch it all happen. He has a _____ for you to play.

“Lord, use me.”

True and lasting joy comes from putting _____ before _____. Not by doing the _____ thing, but by doing the thing that _____ our faith.

“Only those who give away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live.” (Mark 8:35)

We’re just existing until we have a purpose greater than ourselves to get out of bed for in the morning. Do you?