

Joy in Faith – Outline

I. Introduction – How do we find Joy in believing in Christ?

- a. Always remember the basics of the faith.

Philippians 3:1 – Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

- b. What joy is to be found in our faith?
 - i. God loves us.

Romans 8:35-39 – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD.

- ii. God is with us.

1 Corinthians 3:16 – Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

- iii. God will save us.

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

II. Don't Get Backwards.

Philippians 3:2-3 – Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh.

- a. Judaizers were Jews who still believed that one must follow Old Testament laws in order to be saved. Their faith was in works before Christ. They had it backwards.
- b. Do we, in spite of our faith in Christ, tend to believe that good works are necessary to secure our faith?

Philippians 3:4b-9 – If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

- c. Paul was an impressive Jew but he did not put his faith in his past credentials.
- d. Are we putting out faith in our worldly status as opposed to who we are in our relationship with Christ?
- e. Paul considers knowing Christ to be surpassing to all other elements of life.
- f. The Righteousness he finds comes not from doing good works, but from faith in Christ.

III. Look and Move Forward.

Philippians 3:12-14 – Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- a. Paul presses forward to receive his salvation.
- b. He forgets the regrets of the past and keeps moving forward.
- c. Is there anything that we are hung up on that keeps us from moving forward in our walk? Bring those things to the cross today.

IV. Follow Paul's Example.

Philippians 3:17-20 – Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. Paul was not perfect, but the life that he lived was one that strove toward Christlikeness.
- b. We must not be enemies of the cross by centering our lives on earthly things. We must be careful to serve others before serving ourselves.
- c. We must remember that our true citizenship is in Heaven. We are called to live a consecrated life set apart for the Lord here on Earth. We can find joy in our faith that our Savior, Jesus Christ will come for us.

Colossians 3:1-4 – Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Pray

Invitation