

Joy in Giving – Outline

I. Introduction – Paul’s final calls to unity, focus, and giving.

Philippians 4:2-3 – I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

- a. Paul calls for restored relationships, asking an unknown companion to help mediate between his two friends.
- b. Paul has called for unity throughout the book of Philippians.
- c. Do you have any broken relationships in your life? Is it time that you try to mend them?

II. Joy in the Love of the Lord

Philippians 4:4-7 – Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- a. Paul’s inward condition continues to not be defined by his outward circumstances.
- b. He find’s assurance in knowing that God is with him.

Psalms 23:4 – Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- c. Paul contrasts prayer with anxiety.

1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...

- d. The Lord also called us away from anxiety.

Matthew 6:25-34 – "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you

not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- e. Do we sometimes forget how much God truly loves us? Are we distracted from what's above and within us by what is around us?

Deuteronomy 14:2 – for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession.

- f. We gentiles now share in the inheritance of the Israelites.
- g. The peace of God comes in knowing that he loves us and that he is near.

III. Focusing on what is bright.

Philippians 4:8-9 – Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- a. Put simply, think positive.
- b. The Trap – Staring at our sin.
 - i. Becomes about our own efforts
 - ii. Distracts from God's grace

IV. Paul finds Joy in the partnership of giving

Philippians 4:10-13 – I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content

whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- a. The key to being content in any circumstance is to rely on the Lord.

Matthew 19:26 - "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Philippians 4:14-20 – Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- b. Giving and receiving is a two-way street of blessing.
- c. When we bless, God blesses us in kind. When we give, God gives to us in kind.

V. Pray

VI. Invitation