

Sermon Series: Rejoice (A Study of Philippians)

Sermon: Between Two Worlds

Scripture: Philippians 1:18b-30

Yes, and I will rejoice,¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy^[h] of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you ever found yourself caught up between “two worlds?” How would you describe that tension?
- When was the last time you experienced true joy? What was going on?
- Paul rejoices *in spite of his circumstances*. Are there any circumstances or situations in life that consistently prevent you from experiencing joy? How could you address those?
- Do you have any “keystone habits” that help organize the rest of your life and make other habits easier?
- Consider Psalm 90:12. Have you ever met anyone who was at peace with their mortality and exuded God’s peace? What have you learned from them?
- C.S. Lewis wrote that “Joy is the serious business of Heaven.” What do you think that means?
- Paul calls us to fearlessly “strive side by side for the faith of the gospel,” like athletes locking arms, enduring together. Who do you picture as your teammates in that endeavor? How can you serve with this sense of collaboration and mission?

Guided Prayer:

Pray for Christ to be magnified in our own lives and our church.

May we rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn (Rom 12:15).

Lift up those who are in your heart that they may be comforted.