

MESSAGE NOTES
The Joy Challenge – Part 1 of 4
Joy Despite My Circumstances
Philippians 1

We are beginning a 4-week study during this Advent Season called, *The Joy Challenge*. Each week we will look at a different chapter in Paul's 4-chapter letter to the Christians at the church in Phillippi, a church he had planted in the Roman Province of Macedonia. This week we will see what Paul teaches us about being able to experience true *Joy Despite My Circumstances*. Then in the weeks to come we will see how we can experience *Joy Despite Other People; Joy Despite My Past; and Joy That Defeats Worry*.

If anyone can teach us how to experience true joy in the midst of the difficulties, trials, and the wounds and hurts that we face in life, it is the Apostle Paul because he is writing this "Treatise on Joy" from prison. He is under house arrest and probably chained to a different Roman guard every 4 hours - 24/7. He is going to go on trial for his life as is described at the end of Acts 28 in the Bible. And this was after he has already experienced in his life what he shares in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.... during his ministry of sharing the gospel (good news).

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Philippians 1:1-11.... Paul is grateful for people and recalls many happy memories, and his love for them. This helps him to have joy in the midst of the hardships he is currently enduring.

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Some Essentials for Joyful Living:

1. I need a Perspective to live from. – Philippians 1:12-14...

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Some Essentials for Joyful Living:

2. I need a Priority to live by. – Philippians 1:15-18...

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Some Essentials for Joyful Living:

3. I need a Power to live on. – Philippians 1:19-20...

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Some Essentials for Joyful Living:

4. I need a Purpose to live for. – Philippians 1:21-26...

PLACE FOR NOTES:

Taking It Home

We encourage you to take a few minutes today and this week to process this morning's message. These questions are designed for discussion with your family, a friend, mentor, spouse, and small group. They are also useful for self-reflection.

1. What stands out to you in these passages from the Bible? From the message?
2. What is difficult for you to understand or accept in these passages from the Bible? From the message?
3. What is God saying in these passages and through what we heard in the message about Himself? About people? About you?
4. What examples are there to follow, commands to obey, or promises to stand on from these passages in the Bible, and from what we heard in the message?