



#9 – Philippians

Pastor Shawn Peterson

FoothillsBibleChurch.org/sermons

Philippians

January 17, 2021
Rejoice in the Lord
Philippians 3:1-3

Philippians 3:1-3

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. ²Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh

A foundational principle – Rejoice in the Lord

- to be glad or delighted, to celebrate, to be cheerful
- based upon God's victory over sin and death

Happiness is always based upon our **circumstances**.

Joy is based upon a **relationship**

Only the Christian can truly “rejoice in the Lord” because only a Christian has a relationship with God.

Joy is a supernatural delight in God and God's goodness. Joy is an inner quality of delight in God, or gladness, and it is meant to spring up within the Christian in a way totally unrelated to the adversities or circumstantial blessings of this life. James Boice

“Rejoicing in the Lord” is the distinctive sign of a victorious Christian and grumbling and disputing as the sign of unbelief. Ray Stedman

It is incumbent upon us, as Christians, to rise out of our despondencies. Joy should be the normal state of the Christian. It is your privilege, it is your duty, to rejoice in God. Charles Spurgeon



5 Ways to Train your Heart to Rejoice

- 1 - **Meditation** on God's Word
- 2 - **Sing** to the Lord
- 3 - **Interweave** prayer
- 4 - **Confess** your sin
- 5 - **Reaffirm** your dependency

Joy is the serious business of heaven. CS Lewis

A Stern Warning – Look out!

- dogs
- evildoers
- those who mutilate the flesh

A Transformed Identity

³For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh

Reflection Questions on Today's Sermon

1. What is most challenging or thought provoking from Philippians 3:1-3?
2. What action step is God calling you to make today?

Growth Group Questions Giving and Being Worthy of Honor Philippians 2:19-30

FoothillsBibleChurch.org/growth-groups

Prepare

Read: Philippians 2:17-18, 3:1-3, 4:4; James 1:2-3; Romans 2:28-29

Pray: God our Father, You have given us ample reason to rejoice at all times. Help us believe this truth more deeply tonight such that we express it more and more consistently and passionately!

Connect

1. In three words or less, share an irritant that got to you this past week.

Discussion

1. What did you learn about God and yourself from this sermon and passage and what would you like to see change in your life because of it?



2. **Read Phil. 2:17-18, 3:1, 4:4** where Paul writes about rejoicing. Joy is an amazing gift flowing from knowing God and trusting Him. Since Paul is in prison and dealing with a very difficult life situation, what does his joy say about his faith in God?
 - a. **Read James 1:2-3.** When you are faced with difficult life situations, what is most helpful in restoring your joy?
 - b. How has seeing someone else's joy been an encouragement to you in difficult times?
3. Is it God or His actions (His blessings, His work in our lives) in which we are to rejoice?
 - a. How are you finding joy in the Lord because of who He is as well as the works He is doing and has done in your life?
 - b. How are you letting things get in the way of rejoicing these days & how can you apply the gospel to refute it (see vs. 3 in particular)?
4. What is the "flesh" and why can't we put confidence in it?
5. Describe modern evangelical versions of false (putting confidence in the flesh) vs. true circumcision you have experienced.
 - a. What is the key difference between the two in this passage?
 - b. How does trying to find confidence in "the flesh" rob your joy?

Closing Prayer

1. **Admire:** What have you learned about God through this sermon, discussion, and Scripture? Praise Him for it
2. **Admit:** What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you as areas where you are falling short? Confess it to God.
3. **Aspire:** What is a specific change you want to see in your life or action you and/or your G2 could take based in this time of interaction?
4. **Ask:** Keep track of requests & celebrations from others in your G2 & pray for them.

