

The Heart of Joy

Philippians 1:3-5

Series: Joy and Gratitude in Christ

1. Introduction

- a. The heart of joy is explained and demonstrated to us in this passage with inexplicable clarity. We see that Paul's heart and soul are intertwined with that of the Philippians in a joyous proclamation of mutual love.
- b. Paul's condition is dire:
 - i. He is confined in prison,
 - ii. He could possibly be killed for his unwavering commitment to teaching the faith.
 - iii. He is in need.
- c. Through all this, Paul expresses a seamless heart of Joy stayed on the fact the Christ was his and that the Philippians served this same magnificent God with the same devotion and fidelity that had marked Paul's life.
- d. **Doctrine:** Christian Joy is not dependent on our circumstances but in abiding in Christ and reveling in his sovereignty over all circumstances.

2. Verses 3 – Christian Joy is produced when we are grateful

- a. I thank my God
 - i. Joy is contingent on each person appropriating God as Father and Christ as savior.
 1. God has to be mine.
- b. In all remembrance of you.
 - i. Joy is contingent on gratefulness.
 1. We are to remember pass blessing and those that have blessed us. We are to continuously remember the goodness of the Lord demonstrated by the Lord Himself and by those that serve the Lord as his servants.

3. Verse 4 – Always in prayers

- a. Always in every prayer of mine
 - i. This is the practical expression of Paul's gratitude; he prays for the Philippians.

1. They have blessed him with encouragement, finances, love, respect, and other more innumerable ways. Paul on the other hand prays for them in gratitude.
- ii. Always – The prayer for the Philippians never ceased. On every occasion of prayer Paul continuously brought the Philippians to the Lord.
 1. **Doctrine**: The Necessity of prayer.
- iii. In every prayer of mine... **Doctrine**: The Variety of Prayer
 1. **1 Timothy 2:1** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
 - a. Supplication – Our request to God
 - i. Christ in his private prayer life.
 - b. Corporate – Praying with others in one accord
 - i. Disciples in the upper room
 - ii. Solomon in the dedication of the temple.
 - c. Intercession – Request for others before God – Pleading with God.
 - i. Christ as our intercessor
 - ii. Moses as intercessor.
 - iii. Jeremiah as intercessor
 - d. Thanksgiving – The giving of thanks to God for His goodness.
 - i. Christ at the tomb of Lazarus
- iv. For you all – former gentiles and Jews alike
 1. Remember that this church had started as a rag-tag group of disjointed members. Paul’s prayer is for all of them.
 2. **Doctrine**: The Unity of the Church
- v. With Joy – prayer was offered to God in the attitude of Joy. Prayer is intrinsically spiritual and when prayer is offered in gratitude, then it flows that it will be offered in joy.

4. Verse 5 – Joy in Partnership

- a. Paul’s grateful prayer of joy was cause by a partnership of collaboration in the kingdom of God.
 - i. They had partnered with Paul so that the work of Paul was there work.
 1. Paul’s success in preaching the gospel was their success in that they partnered with him in:
 - a. Encouragement, prayers, concern, finances.

- ii. When we partner with the faithful we bring honor to our Lord and blessing to our own lives, here and eventually in glory:
 - 1. **Mark 9:41** For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.
 - 2. **Matthew 25:31-32; 34**; "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'
- b. From the first day until now – Partnership that produces joy is constant, unwavering commitment to other Christians.

5. Benediction –

- a. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. (10) For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! (11) Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? (12) And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him--a threefold cord is not quickly broken.