



## Transcendent Joy: Learning How to Rejoice No Matter What

Message #5: **Ingredients for Joy-filled Living** (Philippians 1:19-26) – November 20, 2022 - Pastor Jeff

- God has so blessed us as believers that we enjoy a win-win life:
    - No matter what happens to us in this life, we will arrive in our heavenly home in the next.
    - No matter how difficult things may be, God always brings “good” out of “all things” (Rm 8:28)
    - We can’t lose since “if God is for us, who is against us?” (Rm. 8:31)
  - Some of our favorite words of instruction and encouragement come from the four letters Paul wrote while incarcerated, but without these letters, we would not have teaching on our limitless riches in Christ, the equipping ministry of the church, our putting off and on responsibility, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the ultimate purpose of marriage, the armor of God, the deepest look at the incarnation in all of Scripture, the loss & gain analysis of knowing Christ, and the greatest profile of Jesus Christ.
  - So how does Paul show us by his example to live the win-win life with joy?
- ① You win with a supernatural confidence (1:19)**
- Paul’s first three words, “for I know” communicates a settled conviction about God’s ability to deliver him in one way or another (could be physical or spiritual and will be both ultimately)
  - Paul knows his circumstances are temporary in light of eternity and he is confident about two things:
    - The prayers of the saints (“through your prayers...”) are one way God chooses to work out His will and provision. The church was born in prayer (Acts 1:12-14); committed to prayer (Acts 2:22); emboldened by prayer (Acts 4:31) and led by prayer (Acts 6:4).
    - The provision of the Holy Spirit (“...and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus”). The ministry of the Holy Spirit fully supplies whatever is needed at the moment.
- ② You will with a shameless courage (1:20)**
- Paul had an expectant heart (“according to my earnest expectation and hope”) that was fueled by his great anticipation of “hope”
  - Paul had an exultant heart (“that I will not be put to shame in anything...”) that was determined not to fail Christ in in is life (“I will not”) and to boldly use his body to live or die for Christ (“but that will all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death”). He was emboldened to stand up and be counted because he was energized by what Christ did for him and that he could still use his body as an instrument of righteousness (Rom. 6:12)
- ③ You win with a single-minded commitment (1:21-22)**
- Paul was committed to live Christ, solely for Christ and all for Christ.
  - This commitment is seen in Paul’s devotion to Christ whether it was:
    - Living for Him (“for to me to live is Christ...”) as the reason, the goal and the center of his life (Heb. 12:2; 1 John 2:6; 1 Pet. 2:21; Col. 1:18; 2 Cor. 5:9)

- Dying for Christ (“*to die is gain*”). This view of death seems extreme since death is an enemy, intruder and a consequence. But he knew death (for the believer) was not a dead-end, but a doorway to glory. It’s not a loss, but a “*gain*” since it brings a better body, existence, freedom, inheritance, fellowship, and a heavenly home.
- This commitment is seen in Paul’s desire to be with Christ (v. 22-23).
  - His “*desire to depart*” is motivated by how much better it is. We are pilgrims, strangers, and aliens in this land as we await our future home in heaven.
  - He feels “*hard pressed*” between two options: to be with Christ in heaven or to remain in this life for “*fruitful labor*”. Life for Paul was about being productive in God’s kingdom work.

#### ④ You win with a selfless concern (1:24-26)

- Because Paul is focused on Christ, he is consumed with ministering to others who need Christ’s grace and truth.
- Paul’s concern was determined by what was necessary for others (“*it was more necessary for your sake*”)
- Paul’s concern was determined by what was needed for others (v. 25-26). People need to make “*progress*” in their faith walk and a big part of that is their “*joy*”. As you advance in Christ, your joy increases and strengthens because you are brought closer to the Joy-maker.