

# Christian Joy

Intro: It has been correctly said that the Philippian epistle could be summed up in the two short phrases: "I rejoice; rejoice ye." Every chapter finds these sentiments being expressed time and time again. Notice Phi. 3:1, 4:4, 10 <sup>41</sup> Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe.... <sup>44</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.... <sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity." In this lesson, I want us to center upon Paul's statement in Phi. 3:1 <sup>41</sup> Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe."

## I. PAUL'S CIRCUMSTANCES

### A. His repeated statements are all the more remarkable when his circumstances are considered.

1. He is in prison.
2. He is dependent upon Christian charity for his living.
3. He has no man who stood with him, but they forsook him; 2 Tim. 4:16 <sup>16</sup> At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge."
4. While expecting to be released, he could be martyred for his conviction; Phi. 1:20-25 <sup>20</sup> According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. <sup>22</sup> But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. <sup>23</sup> For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you. <sup>25</sup> And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;"

### B. In spite of the darkness, his clear notes ring jubilant: "I greatly rejoice."

1. Phi. 4:10 <sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity."
2. He does not revel in nor reminisce on the glories of yesterday; rather, he rejoices in the day that now is.
3. What a marvelous lesson to us today.
4. Hard circumstances have not made him cynical, hard, or soured on the world.
5. Rome might be able to separate him from his brethren:
  - a. They cannot separate him from his Lord.
  - b. Thus, he counsels: "I rejoice—rejoice ye in the Lord."

## II. FINALLY, MY BRETHREN

### A. Significance of *Brethren*.

1. It has reference to the fraternal relationship enjoyed in the family of God.
2. When one enters the that family, he has fellowship with spiritual brothers and sisters.

### B. How does one enter that family?

1. Through a spiritual birth.
  - a. John 3:3-5 <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

- b. Involves the elements of the Spirit and water.
  - (1) The Spirit using the Word of God to instill life:
    - (a) 1 Pet. 1:23 <sup>“23</sup> Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
    - (b) Jam. 1:18 <sup>“18</sup> Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
  - (2) We are baptized in water:
    - (a) Eph. 5:26 <sup>“26</sup> That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”
    - (b) Tit. 3:5 <sup>“5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
- c. Gal. 3:26-27 <sup>“26</sup> For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

**C. This admonition is for us also for we are also Paul’s brethren.**

### III. REJOICE

**A. It is to be “filled with joy, gladness.”**

**B. Notice it is a command.**

1. In Greek it is an imperative which is a command or duty.
2. Why?
  - a. It promotes good mental health.
  - b. We do our best work when we are joyous.
  - c. In joy there is strength.
    - (1) It binds us together in the home.
    - (2) It binds us together in the church.
  - d. It does not come overnight; it is something at which we must diligently work.

### IV. IN THE LORD

**A. This is the origin or source of Christian joy.**

1. Phi. 3:3 <sup>“3</sup> For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”
2. Phi. 4:4 <sup>“4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.”
3. Phi. 4:10 <sup>“10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.”

**B. Notice all that is Scripturally connected with this phrase that would bring rejoicing.**

1. No condemnation; Rom. 8:1 <sup>“1</sup> *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
2. New creature; 2 Cor. 5:17 <sup>“17</sup> Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
3. Child of God; Gal. 3:26 <sup>“26</sup> For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
4. Forgiveness of sins; Eph. 1:7 <sup>“7</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
5. Salvation; 2 Tim. 2:10 <sup>“10</sup> Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
6. Blessed in death; Rev. 14:13 <sup>“13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
7. All spiritual blessings; Eph 1:3 <sup>“3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:”

### C. How does one get “into Christ”?

1. Rom. 6:3-8 <sup>3</sup> Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: <sup>6</sup> Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. <sup>7</sup> For he that is dead is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:”
2. Gal 3:27 <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

## V. NOTICE THE CONTINUANCE OF THIS JOY

### A. Begins in our acceptance of Christianity.

1. Acts 2:41, 46-47 <sup>41</sup> Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup> And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all that believed were together, and had all things common; <sup>45</sup> And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. <sup>46</sup> And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, <sup>47</sup> Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
2. After the Samaritans gave heed to Philip’s preaching; Acts 8:8 <sup>8</sup> And there was great joy in that city.”
3. At the Ethiopian’s baptism; Acts 8:39 <sup>39</sup> And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
4. After the Philippian jailor was baptized; Acts 16:34 <sup>34</sup> And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”
5. The same is seen today on the faces of those who obey the Lord in baptism for the remission of sins.

### B. This joy continues through the Christian life.

1. That is the emphasis found in Philippians.
  - a. Phi. 3:1 <sup>1</sup> Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe.”
  - b. Phi. 4:4 <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.”
2. Rom. 12:12 <sup>12</sup> Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”
3. 1 Cor. 13:6 <sup>6</sup> Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth”
4. 1 The. 5:16 <sup>16</sup> Rejoice evermore.”
5. 1 Pet. 1:8 <sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:”

### C. Wherein does the Christian rejoice.

1. Notice Paul’s rejoicing as related in the Philippian epistle.
2. In the remembrance of his brethren (the same should be true for all of us).
  - a. Phi. 1:3-4 <sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy;”
  - b. Phi. 4:10 <sup>10</sup> But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.”
3. In the proclamation of the Gospel.
  - a. Phi. 1:18 <sup>18</sup> What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.”
  - b. Do we rejoice in the Lord’s work?

4. In the unity of brethren; Phi. 2:2 <sup>“2</sup> Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.”
5. In persecution: the opportunity to stand up for the Faith.
  - a. Phi. 2:17-18 <sup>“17</sup> Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup> For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.”
  - b. Mat. 5:10-12 <sup>“10</sup> Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”
  - c. This is certainly difficult to put into practice.
6. Even in death
  - a. Phi. 2:17 <sup>“17</sup> Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.”
  - b. Rev. 14:13 <sup>“13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

Conclusion: What are we as Christians manifesting to the world: joy or sorrow? Are you in the Lord? Do you truly rejoice in the Lord? Will you hear the words to enter into the joy of Lord; Mat. 25:21, 23 <sup>“21</sup> His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. <sup>22</sup> He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. <sup>23</sup> His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”