

REJOICE IN THE LORD

Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship ^{to} God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

INTRO:

This is the focus that Paul has in the first three verses of chapter 3. Here is an important part of the life of every Christian: the call of the apostle to all believers to rejoice in the Lord.

OUTLINE

- I. CALL
- II. COMMAND
- III. CONFUSION

I. THE CALL TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.

1. PAUL IS RESUMING THE THEME OF THE LETTER WHICH MOST AGREE IS JOY, OR REJOICING

A. THROUGHOUT THE LETTER, PAUL WAS TEACHING THEM HOW TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

IDEA: In Chapter one, Paul revealed that he was rejoicing in the midst of unpleasant situations.

- (1) Falsely imprisoned, yet, he was able to tell the good news, the gospel to all those who guarded him, 24 hours a day
- (2) False ministers who were preaching from wrong motives Paul said, I'm just glad they are preaching.
- (3) Paul taught them how to deal with his persecution, and with their persecution.

Paul was a single-minded man. to live is Christ, and to die is gain. That was his perspective. He lived for God, and he focused on preaching the Gospel

- (4) He showed them how to deal with jealousy and division. Put others first. They are more important than you are.
- (5) The supreme example of joy, is found in the humility of the Lord Jesus Christ. He came here, served, and is now exalted above every name.

So, all through the 1st, and the 2nd chapter, he was teaching them how to rejoice, and how to maintain their joy in spite of circumstances.

2. BUT, THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE HE WANTED TO SAY TO THEM ABOUT JOY AND THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES

A. AND HE DOES SO, AS HE SAYS THE WORD FINALLY.

IDEA: He was not closing his letter, but suddenly had decided to go with other matters.

NOTICE: Quite to the contrary. The word finally, does not mean, “I’m finished” rather it means, now onto another matter, or as to the rest of what **I want to say** which he brings out in 3:1-3

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These trouble makers were called Judaizers. They would follow Paul around, and would preach another gospel to the people Paul had been working with. And, they were affecting the flock there in Philippi.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become ^[e]guilty before God.

Romans 3:20 by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Romans 3:22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all ^[f]and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:24 being justified ^[g]freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 3:25 whom God set forth as a ^[h]propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Romans 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

POINT: Let's look again, at our verses today

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IDEA: What did Paul say about rejoicing?

NOTICE: There are three important words

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I. THE CALL TO REJOIC IN THE LORD

II. THE COMMAND TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord.** For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

1. THE PHRASE “REJOICE IN THE LORD” IS ACTUALLY A COMMAND

A. THE BEST APPROACH TO UNDERSTAND THIS, IS TO DIVIDE IT UP INTO THREE PARTS

- (1) What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord,
- (2) And why should we rejoice in the Lord,
- (3) And finally, how do we rejoice in the Lord

IDEA: Let's begin then, with what does it mean to rejoice in the Lord

NOTICE: It is actually given in the form of a command.

EXAMPLE: In other words, this is not a description of the state we often find ourselves in, so much as we are being exhorted, or commanded to do this

2. WE TEND TO THINK OF REJOICING AS A SUBJECTIVE STATE OR CONDITION, AND, OF COURSE ULTIMATELY IT IS

A. BUT THE MERE FACT THAT IT IS GIVEN TO US AS A COMMAND, IS PROOF THAT THIS REJOICING IS NOT SOMETHING WE EXPERIENCE IN A PASSIVE OR SUBJECTIVE MANNER

IDEA: In other words, Paul is not saying, now just sit down, trusting, and hoping you will suddenly begin to experience joy

NOTICE: No, we have to do something, in order to experience joy,

And is something we are capable of doing it

EXAMPLE: So, these words are not intimating, that we should passively sit down, and hope, or expect to be rejoicing.

And all of a sudden, somehow or another, we are going to be rejoicing

I. THE CALL TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

II. THE COMMAND TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

III. THE CONFUSION ABOUT REJOICING IN THE LORD

1. THE WHOLE QUESTION OF JOY HAS CAUSED A LOT OF CONFUSION AMONG CHRISTIANS

A. MANY CHRISTIANS ARE UNHAPPY, BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT EXPERIENCING JOY

IDEA: The real problem with them, is in thinking that Joy is something that happens to us.

NOTICE: They believe that they have no control over rejoicing.

And, that they are not capable of making themselves rejoice, and that joy is the result of some interaction and some inter operation of a number of forces and factors, and most of those outside of themselves.

EXAMPLE: And, the result of all this, is that they are either happy, or they are not happy

POINT: But, this it seems is in error, which is constantly exposed and denounced in the NT Epistles.

And, here it is exposed by the very fact, that we are given a commandment, and we are to rejoice, because it is something we can do.

2. BUT HAVING SAID THAT LET'S LOOK AT TWO DANGER THAT IMMEDIATELY COME TO MIND

A. THE FIRST IS THAT OF TRYING TO PRODUCE THIS STATE OF JOY BY MAKING A DIRECT UPON THE EMOTIONS.

IDEA: In other words, they say, since rejoicing is in the realm of the emotions, and if we are commanded to rejoice, then we must do something to ourselves emotionally, in order to get into the happy and rejoicing frame of mind.

NOTICE: We are all too familiar with the various ways in which this can happen

EXAMPLES: At the start of a worship service, worship leader, or speaker, will try and stir everyone up, picking certain songs, or saying certain things like Come on now, let stand, clap, an start shouting to the **the Lord**

OR THE FAMOUS COUNTDOWN CLOCK

POINT: This is what I mean, by a direct attack on the emotions.

Joy is a condition that is experienced, but it is more than a feeling; it is, primarily, a state of mind.

J. I. Packer

Joy is at the heart of satisfied living.

J. I. Packer

The secret of joy for believers lies in the fine art of Christian thinking.

J. I. Packer

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