



TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Rediscovering Joy #1

Bob Schwahn | Lead Pastor | January 08, 2023

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice." **Philippians 1:3-18 (NIV)***

- 1) The palace guard is hearing the gospel
- 2) Believers more bold in proclaiming
- 3) People with wrong motives are preaching boldly

*"Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms, to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances.' If we pursue happiness instead of choosing joy, we'll become what Frankl calls 'plaything[s] of circumstance.'" **Viktor Frankl***



Pray Philippians 9 -11 over your life.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) What was something from the sermon that caught your attention?
- 2) What are circumstances in your life that steal your joy? Are you able to see God doing "good work" in and/or through your life in these circumstances?
- 3) Is it difficult for you to see or believe that God "who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."? Why or why not?
- 4) Have you seen God use difficult circumstances to bring good and/or growth in your life? Share some examples.
- 5) How does looking back at these circumstances affect your ability to trust him in your present and/or future circumstances? Read Paul's Prayer for the Philippian believers (v. 9-11).
- 6) Have you ever prayed for discernment? Stop and pray for discernment for both yourself and for your church. Pray that you would not only do what is right but that you would also do what is best.
- 7) What are the things that really matter? Paul wanted the church to be able to discern what really matters in life. Stop and pray for yourself and your church - that you all may be passionate about the things that really matter.
- 8) Stop and pray for purity in your life and in the life of your church, particularly in areas related to relationships. Paul prays for the believers to be filled with the fruit of righteousness. What does this mean? What might this look like?