

Gods Perfected Work in Us

Philippians 1:1-11

Paul is in prison and writes a letter to Christians about having joy no matter what. Jesus High Priestly prayer to Father *Jn 17:13* ***“But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.*** Paul is in prison full of the joy of Jesus. The Christian life is a life God says can be filled w/ joy. 19 x's joy/rejoicing are mentioned.

Bible says 'As a man thinks in his heart so is he.' Thinking determines feelings. When we think right we feel right. Attitude determines Altitude. Change your mind and God will change your heart. God has left the responsibility of our mind to us ***‘be ye changed by the renewing of your mind’***. If we will change our mind God will change our heart to one of joy.

Ch 1-A single mind **Ch 2**-A submitted mind **Ch 3**-A simple mind **Ch 4**-A settled mind.

Paul was in custody in Caesarea for 2 years--**a political prisoner pawn**. Not getting a fair trial he appeals to Caesar (**Supreme court**). Now in Rome under house arrest chained to Roman guards 24 hrs/dy. 10,000 imperial soldiers on duty to protect the Emperor of Paul had a captive audience **4:22** ***All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.***

Later prior to his execution he was put in **pic Mamertine prison**. Church sent offering by Epaphraditus & Paul sent back his thank you letter, friend to friend letter w/ words of great affection & exhortation of having joy & rejoicing in spite of circumstances.

1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

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Bond servant *Dulou by choice*--didn't use title of *apostle* because his calling was understood by them. Other letters he uses *Apostle by the will of God* because of attacks on his character & authority by his enemies.

Man loves titles—Jesus said of the Pharisee—the so-called religious elite of the day *Matt 23:6,7 “And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues, 7 and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called by men, Rabbi. Hawaii Rabban or Reverend...Ps 111:9*

No ranking or status in body of Christ we are all servants of the Lord by choice *Dulou*; we are *Haggios* ‘called out ones’ who choose to serve Jesus. Their enemies called them Christians a term of derision—Christ-like.

Church in Philippi started *Acts 16* w/ conversion of business woman, Lydia, then demon possessed girl, then hardened jailer & his family continued & grew to where now there are overseers who have spiritual oversight & deacons who have the care of the physical needs in the church.

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace-*Greek*; Peace-*Hebrew*; both races at odds come together in Christ when He is Lord and Master. Religion divides--Relationship unites

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

Paul greatest joy is to see the work of God in the lives of His people. It is true w/ any leader in the church who is called by God. Their joy is our joy, their sorrow is our sorrow, their hurt is our hurt and their rejoicing is our rejoicing. John the apostle said *3John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

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Joy 19 x's; Jesus 40 x's – The believers joy does not come from outward circumstance but comes from our close relationship w/ Jesus it is an inward spiritual condition when walking w/ God in the center of His will. Greatest joy we can have is seeing those we love rejoicing & living in close fellowship to the Lord.

Partnership is Koinonia 3 x's – Fellowship sharing in common—the thing shared is the basis of fellowship—Jesus. Before work, surf, gym, running

6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

We don't always have the confidence that He will finish what He started in us because we look at ourselves and get discouraged. Because we start projects & never finish them or leave them half done or we put them off until later & never get back to them. Maybe we start a project/venture not realizing how difficult the task is & quit. But God is not like us. He finishes what He begins & is good to His promises. Our problem is our eyes are ourselves instead of God who began the good work. *Get eyes on He not me*

Heb 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.. To look away from all else, to turn the mind toward, to look attentively to Jesus.

7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Paul had the believers in Philippi in his heart, our deepest emotion, not just in the mind. Some people can get on our nerves but we can't let that dictates God's love working in & thru our heart.

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God's love in & thru us overcomes whatever exasperation & irritation we may feel w/ people. *God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us Rom 5:5*

Your mate or friend or child can get on your nerves, frustrate you but that shouldn't change your love for them. *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren' 1Jn 3:14* Those that love the most have the most Joy in their lives...*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...Gal 5:22*

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's prayer for them that they abound in love, have real knowledge of God & all discernment. Meaning that they are able to judge between what is true & false, carnal & spiritual, liberty & bondage--what stumbles & what brings freedom. And prays they have proven character...*Matt 5:48*

"Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

To be Sincere **Grk** compound – splendor of the sun & to judge. Meaning to examine by the strongest light w/o flaws – **Metaphor** of garment seller holds cloth to sunlight to see & show if any imperfections. Also whirl in a sieve to separate wheat from chaff--to winnow.

Latin meaning is w/o wax—honey taken raw & beekeeper strain & refine, purify, clear w/o wax of comb & labeled '**Sinceritas**' --integrity, honesty · soundness, wholeness--moral purity for believers.

Marble statues no falseness, phony but genuine w/o wax to conceal mistakes

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Blameless--unable to hold onto--We are to have Christ like character w/o blame--not causing others to stumble. What we do or say--is it a wing or a weight, does it edify or does it injure,

Filled w/ Fruit of righteousness-**right wise ness**--a judicial verdict—what is approved and right in God’s eyes--a tree is known by it’s fruit

Lk6: 43“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

We are not judges but we are fruit inspectors—in our life and those who claim to know God. ***How can two walk together unless they agree...we are in the world but not of the world...what fellowship has light and darkness...what partnership has righteousness and lawlessness?***

We go into the world to preach the gospel but we are not of the world or hang out w/ the world lest we lose our joy. Chuck ***if you hand out w/ a skunk don’t be surprised if you start smelling like a skunk.***