

Series: Philippines 2024  
Title: Rejoice in the Lord  
Text: Php 3: 1  
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### **Philippians 3: 1: Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.**

**Proposition:** No matter how bad things are for a believer in this world, we always have great reason to rejoice in the Lord.

#### **A CURSED PLACE**

Due to sin this world is a cursed place.

Genesis 3: 17: And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; 18: Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19: In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

All men are born with only a sin-nature. Even for the believer who is born-again of the Spirit of God and given a new nature, our old sin-nature remains with us. Therefore for believer and unbeliever alike this world is full of things that cause us great sorrow.

None can judge by providence alone if he is the Lord's or if he is not. By God's good providence, sorrows come to the believer the same as the unbeliever.

Ecclesiastes 7:15: All *things* have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just *man* that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked *man* that longeth *his life* in his wickedness.

Ecclesiastes 9: 1: For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, *are* in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred *by all that is* before them. 2: All *things come* alike to all: *there is* one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as *is* the good, so *is* the sinner; *and* he that sweareth, as *he* that feareth an oath. 3: This *is* an evil among all *things* that are done under the sun, that *there is* one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness *is* in their heart while they live, and after that *they go* to the dead.

Brother Scott Richardson used to say, "Life begins with a slap on the behind and ends with a shovel full of dirt in our face. In between is full of bumps and bruises the whole way."

For those who believe not on Christ, there are some carnal, earthly joys, the same as there is for the believer. The difference is for the unbeliever, those few carnal joys are all he has--sadly, that is all he wants--that *is the madness in men's hearts* that Solomon spoke about.

Job 21: 7: Wherefore do the wicked live, become old, yea, are mighty in power? 8: Their seed is established in their sight with them, and their offspring before their eyes. 9: Their houses *are* safe from fear, neither *is* the rod of God upon them. 10: [they are productive]...11: They send forth their little ones like a flock, and their children dance. 12: They take the timbrel and harp, and rejoice at the sound of the organ. 13: They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave. 14: Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. 15: What *is* the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?

But when he dies then he must meet God in judgment without a righteousness--then spend eternity cast out of God's presence. In hell a man will forever have the unquenchable desire of beholding the heaven he could have had, yet never being able to have it.

Luke 16: 19: There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21: And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22: And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23: And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25: But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. 27: Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29: Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30: And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31: And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

The worst thing about hell would have to be knowing that if one would have used this little season called "life" to seek Christ, he could have had an eternity with Christ. Yet, he rejected Christ and chose the pleasure of sin for the tiny little season of his life.

I do not know the man so I want speak of his spiritual state, but a few weeks ago, Jacob Rothschild died at the age of 87. His family has had generational wealth for hundreds of years. The reporter said at the time of his death he was worth over a billion dollars. No, he left this world with exactly what he came into this world with--nothing. If a man lives to be 87 and accumulates billions but dies without Christ, his 87 years were a total waste.

For a believer, it is dangerous to judge by providence alone. David said,

Psalm 73: 3: For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked... 5 They *are* not in trouble *as other* men;...6 Therefore pride [covers] them about as a chain;....9: They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

David's house was full of sorrow. His own life was full of sorrowful things. He began to feel like he had believed on Christ in vain. But God showed him how foolish it was to envy unbelievers

Believers have many earthly things for which we rejoice in the Lord. But we have something far greater--we have spiritual joy in the Lord. Paul is in prison. He could be executed at any time. Each time he heard the jailors keys, the jailor could be coming to execute him. Yet, throughout this epistle, and all his epistles, he exhorts believers to "*rejoice in the Lord always.*"

## **REJOICE IN THE LORD**

What are some things for which believer's rejoice in the Lord?

Number one is God our Father and his Son, the Lord Jesus, and the perfect righteousness he has provided for us. God the Father elected to save whom he would by grace. Christ came and lived the perfect life for us that none of God's elect could ever live. Then God our Father and his Son sent the gospel to us and by the Spirit he regenerated us and clothed in his righteousness through faith. God our Father entered everlasting covenant with us assuring us that Christ justified us before God so that God remembers our sins no more. Christ put them away forever. He promises us we are accepted of God in his Son. We have a good hope of eternity to come through God's grace. So when troubles came to his house, in the midst of his tears, Paul could rejoice in the Lord, the same as David did, saying,

2 Samuel 23:5: Although my house *be* not so with God; yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all *things*, and sure: for *this is* all my salvation, and all *my* desire, although he make *it* not to grow.

Secondly, we rejoice in the Lord for brethren. We rejoice that the Lord shall preserve us and finish the work he has begun in us.

Philippians 1: 3: I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4: Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, 5: For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; 6: Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

God has given us brethren in Christ. They are the greatest gift we have in this world behind Christ himself. Our confidence for one another is Christ alone. He justified us, he shall not lose one.

Three, we rejoice in the Lord that he is sending forth the gospel of Christ, accomplishing his will, calling out his saints, regardless of men's motives. Paul spoke of men who preached in sincerity, others to add to his bonds.

Philippians 1: 18: What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

It is God who blesses his gospel, not men. God said, like as the rain and snow accomplish God's purpose to provide for men,

Isaiah 55:11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

Four, we rejoice in the Lord that he has given us the joy of faith in Christ. Paul's confidence was in the Lord protecting him so he could continue preaching the gospel to his brethren.

Philippians 1: 25: And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26: That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

This rejoicing is not in carnal things nor in what carnal eyes can see. This rejoicing *is the joy of faith in the Lord Jesus*.

2 Corinthians 4:18: While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. 5: 1: For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Five, God's saints even rejoice in suffering for Christ's sake. The same as faith is the gift and privilege of God given to us, so is suffering for standing with Christ.

Philippians 1: 29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;---[so Paul and his brethren would rejoice even if he was executed for preaching Christ]...2: 17: Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. 18: For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

Each of God's saints are immortal by Christ our Life. Unbelievers might think they do us harm by killing us but they would only be the instrument by which the Lord brings us into his glorious presence.

Lastly, we rejoice because the Lord is at hand--he is present, with us at all times.

Philippians 4: 4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice. 5: Let your moderation [your patient trust in the Lord] be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand. 6: Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. [we have a tendency to focus on the negative things. But Paul says think on these things for which we have reason to rejoice in the Lord] 8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure,

whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. 9: Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Unregenerate man sees a little flock like us gathering service after service to hear a message about Christ and he thinks how foolish!

Ecclesiastes 11: 7: Truly the [natural, earthly] light *is* sweet, and a pleasant *thing it is* for the eyes to behold the sun [in the sky]: 8: But if a man live many years, *and* rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh *is* vanity. 9: Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment. 10: Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth *are* vanity. 1: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Believe on Christ today and you will rejoice in the Lord today and forever.

God's saints have earthly joys like the unbeliever. We rejoice in the S.U.N--during a beautiful week like we have had this week. But we also have joy rejoicing in the S.O.N. who sent the beautiful day. Even when we cry real tears, God's saints have this inward joy that the world knows nothing of. Paul called it "*the peace of God, which passeth all understanding.*" It is having peace with God--by God--through the righteousness of his Son. It is knowing when this short, brief life is over--we have an eternity of bliss awaiting with Christ, in a world with no sin, only joy and peace forevermore.

**Amen!**