

The Joy of Gospel Righteousness Part 1

Philippians 3:1-11

Theme of Philippians

**How to have true joy regardless
of the circumstances**

You must be in Christ

**You must be obedient to Him
especially by being involved
in the gospel endeavor**

What is joy?

John MacArthur:

True spiritual joy is not related to circumstances. It is a gift from God to those who believe the gospel of Christ, being produced in them by the Holy Spirit, because they receive and obey the Word of God mixed with trials, and keep their focus on eternal glory.

What is joy?

James Montgomery Boice:

Joy is a supernatural delight in God and God's goodness. And it is very different from happiness. The world seeks happiness; the Christian's counterpart is joy. Happiness is our translation of the Latin word *fortuna*, and it is closely related to chance. Thus, if things happen to work out in a way we approve, we are happy.

What is joy?

James Montgomery Boice:

If they do not so happen, we are unhappy.

Happiness is circumstantial, but joy is not. Joy is an inner quality of delight in God, and it is meant to spring up within the Christian in a way totally unrelated to the adversities or circumstantial blessings of this life.

Righteousness

**How can we be right with our Creator?
How can we be justified before God?
There is no more important question.**

**We must be certain about this!
Our doctrine must be right about this!**

Righteousness

There are two basic approaches to this question:

Some teach:

**We can be right with God based
on our own righteousness**

The Bible teaches:

**We can only be right with God based
on a righteousness that is not our own –
a righteousness given to us by God.**

I. The Repetition of Sound Doctrine

1

3:1

Finally, my brethren, rejoice **in the Lord**.

(11th time “joy” or “rejoice” mentioned)

For me to write the same things to you is not **tedious**, but for you *it is* **safe**.

I. The Repetition of Sound Doctrine 1

2 Peter 1:12-15

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

I. The Repetition of Sound Doctrine 1

2 Peter 1:12-15

knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

{Secret Service – counterfeit bills}

II. The Recognition of Subversive Doctrine

2-3

A Warning –

3:2

**Beware of dogs,
beware of evil workers,
beware of the mutilation!**

II. The Recognition of Subversive Doctrine

2-3

Acts 15:1

And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

II. The Recognition of Subversive Doctrine

2-3

These Judaizers taught:

You must be circumcised

You must keep the law

You must keep the ceremonial law

**You must establish your own
righteousness before God**

II. The Recognition of Subversive Doctrine

2-3

The true children of God –

3:3

For we are the circumcision,

II. The Recognition of Subversive Doctrine

2-3

The true children of God –

Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

II. The Recognition of Subversive Doctrine

2-3

The true children of God –

Galatians 3:8-9

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

II. The Recognition of Subversive Doctrine

2-3

The true children of God –

3:3

For we are the circumcision,
who **worship** God in the **Spirit**,
rejoice **in Christ Jesus**,
and have **no** confidence in the flesh,

Conclusion

There are those today who say –

You must be baptized to be saved

You must join the church

You must keep the law

You must be religious

**You must establish your own
righteousness before God**

Conclusion

How can we be right with our Creator?

How can we be justified before God?

Galatians 2:16

**For by the works of the law
no flesh shall be justified**

Conclusion

Titus 3:4-7

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Conclusion

Titus 3:4-7

Whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Conclusion

Romans 10:1-4

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Conclusion

Rock of Ages – 209

Verse 2

**Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow.
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.**

Conclusion

Rock of Ages – 209

Verse 3

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace:
Foul I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.