

Philippians 2:16-18
The Apostle's Great Joy

Boasting ...

- I. The Apostle's Labor
 - A. Service
 - B. Sacrifice
 - C. Satisfaction

- II. Mutual Rejoicing
 - A. Heaven's Delight
 - B. Paul's Gladness
 - C. Saint's Joy

... and gladness.

Children, Listen ...

1. What was the Apostle Paul's called to do?
2. What do you think brought him the most joy in his work?
3. What do angels do when a sinner repents?
4. Does God rejoice in His work of salvation?
5. Do you have the joy of salvation in Jesus in your heart? If so give praise to God!

Joy in "the Work"

God delights in the work of His hands and so should we. This applies to His work of creation and providence but to the work of redemption as well. Salvation is the context of our text and work is an operative word in the plan of salvation. God did the work of saving us through the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The saints are told to work out their salvation with fear and trembling. And the Apostle Paul's "work" is to bring the message of salvation to sinners and to instruct saints how to live the Christian life. His labor in the Gospel is his love and his passion, and his life is spent on it. So when he sees the fruit of His ministry he can legitimately rejoice along with God in it. Paul is in tune with the "sentiment" of God when it comes to salvation – the Lord rejoices in it and so does he. The apostle invites believers to rejoice too. We too should rejoice in God's great work of salvation – certainly for our own – and also in other's who have come from death to life through Jesus.

Revelation 7:9-12

I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice,

"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."