

Scripture: Ten Commandments (Ex. 20) – Matthew 6:25-34
Psalters: 227:1-3 – 40:6 – 248:1-4 – 88:1 – 425:2 – 100:1-4

LET'S STUDY PHILIPPIANS (31)

OPENING TRUTHS:

A. The lessons learned from birds (Matt. 6:26)

B. The most excusable sin is not excused (Matt. 6:31-32)

C. Matthew 6:25-26 directs us

1. not to omit prudence: Gen. 42:33-36; 1 Tim. 5:8

2. not to omit diligence: Prov. 13:4; 1 Peter 2:10

3. to resist anxious care: Ps. 37:3-5; 1 Peter. 5:7

GOD'S CALL TO REJOICE

I. When? II. How? III. Why?

I. WHEN ARE BELIEVERS TO REJOICE?

A. Always: *at all times – occasions – circumstances*

1. Consider God's commands in Ps. 32:11; Ps. 95:2; 100:2

2. Others Scripture on the believer's joy: Gal. 5:22; Romans 14:17; Acts 13:52

B. To rejoice always: isn't that unreasonable? Impossible?

II. HOW ARE BELIEVERS TO REJOICE?

A. Not like how the unbelievers rejoice: Is. 57:20-21

1. Their joy is an unsatisfying emotional happiness rooted in the earthly

2. Truth is you can never be joyful unless you are a believer in Jesus

B. Believers are to rejoice *in moderation* (vs. 5a)

1. 'Moderation' characterizes every aspect of the believer's life

2. This 'moderation' also applies to the expression of their joy

C. Believers are to be consistent before all men in expressing their joy (5a)

III. WHY ARE BELIEVERS CALLED TO REJOICE?

A. Because *The Lord is at hand*

1. Either: He will return *and He will not tarry* (Hebrews 10:32-39)

a. Jesus endured by believing God's promise about the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2)

a. Paul's manner of thinking is similar: Romans 8:18-19

2. Or: He is *near and has all things in His hand*

a. the comfort of God's sovereignty: Ps. 103:9; 76:10; Dan. 4:35

Closing Observation: Who only are able to rejoice like this?

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill,
He treasures up His bright designs, and works His sovereign will.
Ye, fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head.
His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter and He will make it plain.

William Cowper (1772)