

REDISCOVERING JOY

Joy in Life

January 17, 2010

FBC Port A

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-26

Php 1:18 NLT *But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.*

THE 4 ESSENTIALS FOR JOYFUL LIVING

I. I NEED A PERSPECTIVE to live from (vs. 12-14)

Paul's view of his circumstances:

Php 1:12 NLT *And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News.*

When I face problems joyfully:

(vs. 13) I can see the best, even in the worst!

(vs. 14) Believers and non-believers are affected!

Rom 8:28 NLT *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.*

LESSON: God has a purpose behind everyone of my problems.

II. I NEED A PRIORITY to live by (VS. 15-18)

Paul's response to his critics:

Php 1:18 NLT *But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.*

Pro 3:6 NLT *Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.*

LESSON: Focus on what really counts.

III. I NEED A POWER to live on (vs. 19-20)

Paul's source of strength:

Php 1:19-20 NLT *For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.*

Php 4:13 NLT *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.*

LESSON: With God's Power, nothing can devastate me.

IV. I NEED A PURPOSE to live for. (vs. 20-26)

When I wake up, my reason for living is: _____?

Paul's reason for living:

Php 1:21 NLT *For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.*

Php 3:13-14 NLT *No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

Paul's concern:

Php 1:22-26 NLT *But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what He is doing through me.*

LESSON: the secret of Joy in life:

Jesus—first

Others—second

Yourself—third

A man wearing a yellow patterned short-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and a black baseball cap stands in a lush green field. He has his arms raised in a gesture of joy or praise, with his mouth open as if shouting or singing. The background is a clear blue sky with several blue star-shaped graphics scattered across it. The overall mood is one of happiness and freedom.

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