

SERMON NOTES

Joy for the Journey: The Fullness of Joy!
Philippians 2:1-11

¹ Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:1-11 (NASB95)*

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. *1 Corinthians 11:1 (NASB95)*

“George Mueller would not preach until his heart was happy in the grace of God; Ian Ruybroeck would not write while his feelings were low, but would retire to a quiet place and wait on God till he felt the spirit of inspiration. It is well-known that the elevated spirits of a group of Moravians convinced John Wesley of the reality of their religion, and helped to bring him a short time later to a state of true conversion. **The Christian owes it to the world to be supernaturally joyful.**” *A. W. Tozer*

Paul understood that joy in its fullest, could only be found by following the example of Jesus Christ. Concerned for unity in the church at Philippi, Paul encouraged the church to follow the example of Jesus Christ. You can have joy in its fullest when you follow the example of Jesus Christ.

Key Thought: You can have joy in its fullest, when you follow the example of Jesus Christ.

THE APPEAL: (V. 1)

Four “if” clauses in verse 1, first class conditional, clauses which assume reality

- Since there is encouragement from being in Christ
- Since there is comfort in his love
- Since there is fellowship in the Spirit
- Since there is affection and compassion (idea of sympathy)

THE AGENDA: (VS. 2-4)

Paul’s agenda was for the Philippians to be in spiritual unity.

Colossians 3:12-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

- Oneness (v. 2)
- Lowliness (v. 3)
- Helpfulness (v. 4)

THE ATTITUDE: (VS. 5-8)**Jesus gave us the example to follow: (vs. 6-8)**

- “Did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped” (v. 6)
- “But emptied himself” (v. 7)
- “Taking the form of a bond servant” (v. 7b)
- “And being made in the likeness of men (v. 7c)
- “Being found in appearance as a man” (v. 8)
- “He humbled himself” (v. 8b)
- “By becoming obedient to the point of death” (v. 8c)
- “Even death on a cross” (v. 8d)

Jesus gave us four truths to remember:

- What has been emptied is available to be filled
- What has already been given cannot be taken
- What has been surrendered cannot be captured/conquered
- What has been crucified cannot be killed

Take Away: (vs. 9-11)

- Joyful Christians are selfless, let's live selflessly
- Joyful Christians are humble, let's live with humility
- Joyful Christians are sacrificial, let's live sacrificially
- Joyful Christians exalt Jesus, let's exalt Jesus daily
- Joyful Christians confess Jesus as Lord, let's live under the Lordship of Christ daily
- Joyful Christians glorify the Father, let's glorify the Father in everything