



The Source of PAUL'S JOY

Philippians 1:7-11

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

Review from Last Week's Message

- Our Lives are under construction right now.
- God—right now—is “doing a work” in each of us and all of us.
- God will finish what He starts.
- God commences the work; continues the work and will complete the work in us—when Christ returns to earth.
- Our Prayer: *May God do a great work in us!*

*He who began a good work in you, He who began a good work in you,
Will be faithful to complete it, He'll be faithful to complete it,
He who started the work, will be faithful to complete it in you.*

Message Section

1. Paul made a conscious _____ to be joyful.

Philippians 1:3-4, NCV -³ *I thank my God every time I remember you,*
⁴ *always praying with joy for all of you.*

Philippians 4:4, NASB -⁴ *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!*

For the believer: Joy is a choice!

Biblical Joy, accompanied with God's calming presence, is the ability to see spiritual truths and eternal realities in the midst of any situation.

The Joy of Christ is for time and eternity, for soul and body, for adversity and prosperity.
- Dr. William A. Swets

Happiness is caused by things that happen around me, and circumstances will mar it; but JOY flows right on through trouble; joy flows on through the dark; joy flows in the night as well as in the day; joy flows all through persecution and opposition. It is an unceasing fountain bubbling up in the heart; a secret spring the world can't see and doesn't know anything about. The Lord gives His people perpetual joy when they choose to walk in obedience to Him.
- Dwight L. Moody

2. Paul put his _____ in God alone.

Philippians 1:6, ESV -⁶ *And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

3. Paul had _____ with other believers.

Philippians 1:7-11, NLT -⁷ *So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News.* ⁸ *God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.* ⁹ *I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.* ¹⁰ *For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.* ¹¹ *May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.*

Life Application Section



Love and Forgiveness must Characterize our Companionship.

Dr. Richard J. Foster, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, “So, what does it mean to forgive someone? In its simplest terms, to forgive is to “surrender our right to get even.” Practically, this involves four promises:

- I will no longer dwell on this incident.
- I will not bring up this incident again or use it against you.
- I will not talk to others about this incident.
- I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our relationship.

Biblically, ‘forgive’ means to ‘give over’ (to God).

Answers: 1. Choice, 2. Confidence, 3. Companionship.