

Sermon Reflections

Looking for Joy in All the Wrong Places (Philippians 4:10-23)

Summary: Increase your joy by taking your eyes off of self and turning your attention to Christ's ongoing work in His people.

Introduction: What is your greatest "joy stealer"? How can focusing on Christ's work in His people increase your joy? Increase your joy by:

1. Discovering contentment in Christ alone (vv. 10-13)

- In these verses, why did Paul rejoice in the Lord?
- What is the focus of Paul's joy in these verses?
- What did Paul learn?
- How did Paul's contentment differ from that of the Stoic Greek philosophers?
- How and why is verse 13 often misused and misinterpreted?

2. Finding encouragement in missionary support (vv. 14-16)

- What was the practical effect of the Philippian's monetary support to Paul in Thessalonica?
- How does missionary support encourage the missionary?
- How does missionary support encourage the giver?
- Why should you support missionaries?

3. Worshipping through financial giving (vv. 14-20)

- How is giving an act of worship?
- What does our attitude reflect in reference to giving to the Lord's work?
- How does God view faithful giving to His work? (ref. Hebrews 13:16)

4. Seeking camaraderie with all of Christ's people (vv. 21-23)

- How does our brotherhood in Christ bridge racial, social, financial, political, and other gaps?
- What could be some consequences of interpersonal conflicts in the church?
- What is the source of loss of or lack of camaraderie in the Church?

Application: A) Am I content? What is the basis of my contentment? What are the ramifications if Christ is not the source of contentment? B) What more can I do to encourage missionaries? C) What does my giving say about my spiritual health? D) How can I overcome attitudes and prejudices which affect my relationships with others?

Food for Thought: What is the relationship between Phil 4:12 and Phil 4:19?