

## “The Experience and Expression of the Gospel”

### A. THE GOSPEL IS EXPERIENCED IN JOY

- Last week we spoke about the centrality of the Gospel and the character of the Gospel in Philippians. This morning, we will consider two results of the work of the Gospel:

#### Joy and Gratitude

- What are you looking for in life?

Joy is found ONLY in the Gospel.

*Gal. 5:22 ...the fruit of the Spirit is love = JOY*

### B. JOY IN PHILIPPIANS

The gospel was central in Paul's life as proven by his emphasis on joy .

In Philippians there are six references to joy:

- **1:4** *“...always offering prayer with JOY in my every prayer for you all”*
- **1:25** *“...Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and JOY in the faith”*
- **2:2** *“...make my JOY complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose”*
- **2:17** *“...But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my JOY with you all”*
- **2:18** *“...You too, I urge you...share your JOY with me”*
- **4:1** *“...Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my JOY and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved”*

What is BIBLICAL JOY and where does it come from? JOY describes the satisfaction and delight that God has within Himself. JOY is the experience within the Godhead that describes the relationship between the Father and the Son.

- God's love for Jesus:

**Luke 3:22** *“You are My Beloved Son, in You I am well pleased”*

- Jesus' love for God:

**John 14:31** "...so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me"

- Jesus went to the cross with JOY:

**Heb. 12:2** "...for the JOY set before Him, Jesus endured the cross..."

- God's JOY is shared with us:

**John 15:11** "These things I have spoken to you so that My JOY may be in you, and that your JOY may be made full"

- God's JOY has come to us in the Holy Spirit:

**Rom. 5:5** "The love of God [the JOY God has within Himself] has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us"

What does JOY accomplish in us? It **protects** and **promotes**:

- JOY protects us from giving into sin

**Nehemiah 8:10** "...for the JOY of the Lord is our strength"

- JOY promotes the transforming work of God in us.

**Gal. 5:22-23** "...patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..."

### C. THE GOSPEL IS EXPRESSED IN GRATITUDE

JOY always responds with gratitude. Gratitude is humility's joyful expression that recognizes our personal deficiency and need for God and others. For many, gratitude is difficult because of *pride*.

Gratitude is to be expressed in words and deeds.

- **Words of gratitude**

**Philippians: 1:3** "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you"

**John 11:41** "So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me"

Saying “thanks” by rejoicing:

**Philippians 1 & 2:**

**1:18** “...in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice...”

**2:17** “...I rejoice...”

**2:18** “You too, I urge you, rejoice...”

**2:28** “...when you see him again you may rejoice...”

**3:1** “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord”

**4:4** “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”

**4:10** “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly”

**David’s Words of gratitude in the Psalms:**

- David uses the word “praise” 166 times: “to boast, to celebrate, to commend”
- Praise is the activity of our lips that gives appropriate recognition to another.

**Psalm 63:3-5**

▪ ***Deeds of gratitude***

Paul knew that the way we live would be reflective of our gratitude:

**Phil. 2:1-4**

*Consider Zaccheus’ deeds of gratitude as his response to Jesus:*

**Luke 19: 8-9** “Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.’”

In what ways can we express our gratitude to God for the Gospel?

Opportunities of gratitude abound in the church:

- Children’s ministries
- Mercy ministries
- Sat. and Sun. services
- Covenant groups
- Personal contacts with those in need

Gratitude is God's will for us:

**1 Thess. 5:18** "...in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"

Why is gratitude so important to God?

*It is a key element in our sanctification*

**Col. 3:15-16** "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness [gratitude] in your hearts to God"

Our gratitude in words and deeds overcomes pride, so that our hearts are more open to the work of God.

The result of GRATITUDE: **God's glory**

- God is honored and acknowledged as great.
- Our maturity is strengthened.
- Others are saved.

**In summary:** In Philippians we have learned that the Gospel is to be central as it produces the character of humility, being experienced with joy and expressed through gratitude.