

# Message Notes

## **Joy in Gospel Mindedness**

Philippians 4:2-9

Joy Revolution, part 11

December 3, 2006

Remember, learning to “Delight Ourselves in the Lord” involves:

1. Willfully choosing
2. Diligently practicing
3. Humbly using the “helps” that God provides:
  - Creation & the Word
  - Prayer & Praise
  - Christian Community

**grace**  
San Luis Obispo

# Message Outline

## **Joy in Gospel Mindedness**

Philippians 4:2-9

Joy Revolution, part 11

December 3, 2006

### **Joy Stream #9 = Gospel Mindedness**

#### **I. Gospel Minded Unity Within**

- A. Euodia and Syntyche (4:2)
- B. The ‘true companion’, Clement and the church (4:3)
- C. The Book of Life (4:3)
- D. Corporate unity depends on individual humility

#### **II. Gospel Minded Endurance Without**

- A. Joy in difficult circumstances (4:4)
- B. Gentleness in persecution (4:5)
- C. Prayer instead of anxiety (4:6)
- D. The nearness of the Lord (4:5)

#### **III. Gospel Minded Consideration for our World**

- A. Ponder the virtuous (4:8)
- B. Practice Paul’s model (4:9)
- C. Thinking, doing and the peace of God (4:9)

### **Drinking from the Stream . . .**

What is one practical step you can take toward shaping your mind toward like-mindedness with Jesus? How can this aid you in engaging more with the lost world?

## **Growth Group Understanding Questions**

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### ***Joy in Gospel Mindedness***

*Philippians 4:2-9*

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1. Read Phil 4:2-9 again. What echoes do you hear of earlier parts of Philippians? Why is Paul revisiting these issues that he's already addressed?
2. Paul mentions our future in the Lord twice in this passage (4:3, 5 cf. 1:10, 21-23, 28; 2:8-11, etc.) and other times in Philippians as well. Why is it so important that the Philippians understand these issues? What bearing does that have on the way Paul lived his life and how we should live ours?
3. Read Matthew 6:25-34. Compare and contrast this with Philippians 4:6-8. What promises are found in each passage? What warnings? What is the practical instruction in each case?
4. We often think of reading the Bible or going to church when we think about that which is "true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise..." Paul's vision includes those things in the culture that reflect these qualities as well. What are examples of this in our culture today? How could reflecting on these things draw us closer to God, help us engage with our culture, aid our understanding of Scripture, etc?
5. As you look at Philippians 4:8-9 what is the connection between thinking and doing? How does each impact the other? What are the implications of this for our lives?

## **Growth Group Application Questions**

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### ***Joy in Gospel Mindedness***

*Philippians 4:2-9*

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Paul again and again in this passage (and throughout Philippians see 4:2, 4, 6, 8; cf. 1:7, 2:2, 5; 3:15, 19; 4:10 twice) address our minds and ways of thinking. How does our mind and our thinking impact the way we live out the Gospel? What kind of implications does this have for discipleship?
3. Do you have a Euodia or Syntyche in your life with whom you need to agree? What's the issue between you? What steps can you take to work toward resolution? Is there anyone who could help you as a "true companion"?
4. What is your response to persecution in your life? How do you respond to suffering for the cause of the Gospel? What hinders you from suffering? Should we go out looking for suffering?
5. Paul gives his own life as an example to follow. What does it mean for you today on the Central Coast to live a life in the same pattern that he lived his life?