

Message Notes

Joy in Gospel Contentment

Philippians 4:10-23

Joy Revolution, part 12

December 10, 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

Message Outline

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Joy Stream #10 = Joy in Gospel Contentment

I. The Experience of Joyful Contentment

- A. Joyful contentment is a learned secret. (4:11,12)
- B. Joyful contentment is not dependent on circumstances or others. (4:11, 12)
- C. Joyful contentment is not dependent on self. (4:13)
- D. Joyful contentment is found in the sufficiency and abundance of Christ. (4:13)

II. The Essence of Joyful Giving

- A. Joyful giving is an expression of caring Gospel partnership. (4:10, 14, 15-16)
- B. Joyful giving is an exercise of sacrificial worship. (4:18)
- C. Cheerful giving is a demonstration of dependent faith. (4:19)
- D. Joyful giving is form of personal investment. (4:17)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

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1. Read Philippians 4:10-23. There are at least a couple of verses here that are treasured by believers. Which ones? What other treasured verses can you recall in our study of Philippians?
2. What are the two themes that emerge in these verses? Why are they a ONE-TWO punch for us?
3. In Philippians 4:11-13, which state does Paul exalt, poverty or plenty? So what? Philippians 4:13 has sometimes been ripped from its context and applied in weird and wacky ways. What is Paul really saying in this verse?
4. So what is the secret of joyful contentment? How do we get it? Compare this text with Luke 3:14, Heb. 13:5, I Tim. 6:6-10.
5. How was the joyful giving of the Philippians spiritually far more than meets the eye? What was it doing for Paul? What was it doing for the Gospel? What was it doing for themselves? What was it in God's sight?

Growth Group Application Questions

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. What are the obvious challenges of being content in poverty? Why are those with plenty also often not content? In other words, what are the less obvious challenges of being content with plenty?
3. How do consumer capitalism and advertising work against the Bible's commands to be content? The Bible says, "Be content." What does the world tell us?
4. How do we learn contentment?
5. Why does God care about our money? Does He need it? Why has He ordained to accomplish His work through our giving?
6. Why is giving such a sensitive subject to talk about? Why is this naturally so? Is it because of our sinful, selfishness? How has this been exacerbated by the abuse of Christian leaders?
7. What is the relationship between contentment, giving and joy? Flesh that out a bit.