

# Message Notes

**Joy in Gospel Labor & Living**  
*Philippians 1:18-30*  
*Joy Revolution, part 5*  
*October 22, 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 Labor & Living**  
*Philippians 1:18-30*  
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*October 22, 2006*

## Joy Stream #3 = Gospel Labor & Living

### I. Paul’s Exultation (1:18-26)

- A. Surprise #1: For Paul, deliverance could happen in one of two ways.
- B. Surprise #2: For Paul, dying was gain and something He desired. (1:21-23)
- C. Surprise #3: Paul chose to stay for the sake of others.
  - to labor for their progress (sanctification)
  - to labor for their joy (satisfaction)
- D. Surprise #4: For Paul, living and laboring for Christ was living and laboring for others.

### II. Paul’s Exhortation (1:27-30)

*Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. (1:27)*

- A. Mark #1: Standing together in the Gospel
- B. Mark #2: Striving together for the Gospel
- C. Mark #3: Secure together in the Gospel
- D. Mark #4: Suffering together for the Gospel

## Drinking from the Stream . . .

For whose sake are you living and laboring for Christ? How are you giving yourself for someone’s sanctification and satisfaction in Christ? Choose and practice rejoicing in their progress and joy!

## **Growth Group Understanding Questions**

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1. Read Philippians 1:18-30. Summarize this text. What is happening in v. 18-26? How does the text turn in v. 27? What is the subject of v. 27-30?
2. Without looking back at the outline, how many of the 4 surprises pointed out in 1:18-27 can you recall? Why are these things surprising to us modern or post-modern folk?
3. Why is dying “gain” and “very much better” for the Christian? Why do so few Christians think, act and live like this is true? When Paul says “to live is Christ” what does he really mean? What does it look like to live for Christ?
4. What does “conduct yourselves” in v. 27 really mean in the original Greek? Why is it a significant and relevant charge to this church? (Compare with 3:20)
5. What are the 4 marks of Gospel-worthy living given in v. 27-30? Are these things we do by ourselves or with others? How can you tell? What is the significance of this?

## **Growth Group Application Questions**

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### ***Joy in Gospel Labor & Living***

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. Were you joyful or discouraged or both this week? Did you choose and practice drinking from the streams of joy we’ve been discovering together? How’s that going?
3. We called this 3<sup>rd</sup> stream of joy in Philippians, “Gospel labor & living.” Where in the text do you see that this is a stream of joy for Paul?
4. In v. 25, Paul says he’s going to stay for the Philippians’ “progress and joy in the faith.” What does he mean by that? What does that look like? Is there anybody for whom you are laboring for these same things?
5. Think about the four marks of Gospel-worthy living in v. 27-30. What might we have to “stand together” in the Gospel for? How are we “striving together” for the Gospel? What must we be “secure together” against? How is or might the Lord be calling us to “suffer” together”? Flesh those out. Your Growth Group is a place where these things can and ought to be happening. Open and up and invite others to share your standing, striving, security and suffering.