

# Message Notes

**Joy in Gospel Sacrifice**  
Philippians 2:12-18  
Joy Revolution, part 7  
November 5, 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 Sacrifice**  
Philippians 2:12-18  
Joy Revolution, part 7  
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## Joy Stream #5 = Gospel Sacrifice

### I. The Task of Gospel Sacrifice: What it is...

- A. Working our Salvation...
- B. Embodying the Gospel...
- C. Challenge of the Day...

### II. An Expression of Gospel Sacrifice: Where we see it...

- A. The nature of our vocation: *relational sacrifice*
- B. The goal of our vocation: *shining as lights*
- C. The means of our vocation: *the word of life*
- D. The challenge of our vocation: *real life examples*

### III. The Outcome of Gospel Sacrifice: What it produces...

- A. Self-expenditure
- B. Self-deprecation
- C. God exaltation
- D. Mutual edification

## Drinking from the Stream . . .

Gospel sacrifice labors in peacemaking, resulting in joy. Practice rejoicing in the life of labor and sacrifice made possible by Jesus' labor and sacrifice for us. Rejoice in the pouring out of your life for others.

## Growth Group Understanding Questions

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### *Joy in Gospel Sacrifice*

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1. Read Philippians 2:12-18. How does this section relate to the last section in 2:1-11? How does it connect to 1:27-30? Write a one sentence "Reader's Digest" version of Paul's flow of thought from 1:27-2:18.
2. The exhortation of verses 12-13 is to "Work out your salvation!" Does that mean we need to work to earn our salvation, or to work out the reality of salvation in our lives? Why is this to be done in fear and trembling? Paul both commands us to work out our salvation and tells us God is at work in us in the same breath. How does the one relate to the other? Why does he say it this way?
3. Read Daniel 12:3; Luke 16:8; John 12:36; Eph 5:8; and 1 Thessalonians 5:5. How do these passages illuminate what it means for followers of Jesus to shine as lights in the world in Phil 2:15?
4. Paul has already mentioned the day of Christ at least three times (1:6; 1:10; 2:10-11) in Philippians and he references it again in 2:16. Taking all three passages together, what is Paul's desire for the Day of Christ? How does 1 Cor 3:10-15 compare and contrast with this desire?
5. How does joy relate to Paul's willingness to be poured out as a sacrifice for the Philippians in 1:17-18? What are some other observations you can make in these verses about the nature of joy and rejoicing?

## Growth Group Application Questions

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### *Joy in Gospel Sacrifice*

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1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. We've been talking much together about choosing and practicing our delight in the Lord. Which joy stream have you personally connected with most in Philippians? Why do you think this is? Which one has been most challenging or difficult up to this point?
3. What might it look for *you* to live a life that requires God to work in you so that your life embodies the cruciform pattern of Jesus' life? If good morality, etc. is *assumed* for working out the implications of your salvation, what actions and attitudes in our life would show forth God @ work in you?
4. This passage is full of the Apostle Paul's allusions to the Old Testament (e.g., "fear & trembling" Ex. 15:16; "grumbling" Num. 11:1-6; "be blameless" Job 1:8; "amid a crooked and perverse generation" Deut. 32:5; "shining as lights" Is. 60:2; "laboring in vain" Is 49:4; "drink offering" Num 15:3-10). What does this teach us about the way we do and should read our Bibles? What does this tell us as Christians about the value of the Old Testament for today?
5. We see Paul explain Jesus as one who lived for others in 2:6-11 and Paul shows us he is a "man for others" in 2:12-18. Where in your life do you need to be more of a parent, business owner, teacher, engineer, or student for others? Give a specific example of what this might look like.
6. How does this life of Gospel sacrifice produce joy *in our lives*?