

Mid-Week Recharge Bible Study  
Pastor Pat McElroy, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee  
10/12/11

Philippians, *Holy Joy*  
Week Three: The Joy of Grace-vv. 3:1-11

**Introduction:**

Setting

Time

Themes-When we share Christ's mindset, God will lift us up as one.

Key Words and Phrases: joy, in Christ, koinonia, like-minded, and Gospel

**Section One:** Rejoice in the Lord looking out for the mutilators-vv. 1-4a

1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh--

4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also.

Content Questions:

- What is the command in verse 1?
- What are the three commands in verse 2?
- There is a reason given for all these commands in verse 3. What is it?
- What are the personal concessions that Paul gives in the end of verse 1 and in verse 4?

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord here as opposed to previous sections of this letter?
- Who are the dogs, evildoers and mutilators today?
- What does it mean that we are the circumcision?

**Section Two:** Rejoice in the Lord revising your balance sheet-vv. 4b-9

4b If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

Content Questions:

- List Paul's reasons for his confidence in the flesh.
- How does Paul count those confidences now according to verses 7 and 8?
- Why does Paul count them this way now according to the end of verse 8 and 9?
- What does this look like according the three closing phrases of verse 9?

Discussion Questions:

- How does Paul evaluate his gains and losses here? How might we evaluate ours? Make a list of all the things that you count as gain.
- What is of the most surpassing worth in your life?
- In what kind of righteousness are you trusting?

**Section Three:** Rejoice in the Lord striving after Christ-vv. 10-11

10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Content Questions:

- What is it that Paul desires in verse 10?
- What is the goal of verse 11?

Discussion Questions:

- How have you come to know Christ in the power of His resurrection?
- How have you shared in Christ's sufferings?
- What would it mean to become like Him Christ in His death?