

Mid-Week Recharge Bible Study  
Pastor Pat McElroy, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee  
10/19/11

Philippians, *Holy Joy*

Week Six: The Joy of Growth-vv. 3:12-4:3

**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:** Concentrate on growth in Christ-vv. 12-16

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Content Questions:

- What is it that Paul has not already attained?
- Toward what does Paul press on and why?
- Does Paul expect to arrive there on this side of heaven?
- What is the mature way to think according to this verse?

Discussion Questions:

- When was the last time you checked your progress in Christ? How did you do it? Where are you now?
- What would pressing on mean for you right now?
- What have you already attained? How can you hold on to that?

**Section Two:** Concentrate on your citizenship-vv. 17-21

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Content Questions:

- Whom does Paul call on the Philippians to imitate?
- What does it mean to walk as an enemy of the cross of Christ? What is their end?
- Where is our citizenship according to this passage?
- What will Jesus give us because He has won that citizenship for us?

Discussion Questions:

- Whom do you imitate? Do you have Christian role models? Who are they?
- What is our responsibility when we see someone headed in the wrong direction?
- Explain the rewards of heavenly citizenship.

**Section Three:** Concentrate on our common reward-vv. 4:1-3

1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.

3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Content Questions:

- How does Paul describe this church here?
- What should be the resulting behavior that comes forth from obedience to the previous passage?
- What is a practical example of this?

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to stand firm in the Lord according to this passage?
- What does it mean to agree in the Lord?
- Why is Paul so concerned about unity in the mind of the Church?