

Mid-Week Recharge Bible Study  
Pastor Pat McElroy, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee  
11/2/11

Philippians, *Holy Joy*  
Week Seven: The Joy of Growth-vv. 4:10-4:3

**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

10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

Content Questions:

- Over what does Paul rejoice here?
- When Paul says that he has learned to be content in every situation, what kinds of situations does he reference? What is his subject specifically?
- How does this have an impact on what Paul means in verse 13?
- What does Paul mean by verse 14?

Discussion Questions:

- When would you contribute to a brother or sister in need, how involved are you in their plight?
- What does it mean to be content here? In what is Paul content? How content are you?

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

15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.

16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.

18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Content Questions:

- Who was the first Church to partner with Paul? How did they do it?
- Why is it good for the people of God to give to God's work according to this passage? Is Paul looking for money?
- Does Paul really need them to contribute?
- To whom does Paul point the Philippians in their hour of need?

Discussion Questions:

- How can you grow in your support of God's work? What would that look like?
- What does it mean to trust God when we give to the Lord's work?

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

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you.

22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Content Questions:

- Who are the Philippians to greet on Paul's behalf?
- From whom does Paul pass along greetings?
- What is his final parting blessing?

Discussion Questions:

- The people of God are tied together with the Spirit of God and the spirits of the believers in this passage. How might that change your view of the unity of the Church?