

Mid-Week Recharge Bible Study
Pastor Pat McElroy, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee
9/14/11

Philippians, *Holy Joy*
Week One: The Joy of Unity-vv. 1:1-11

Introduction:

Setting

Time

Themes-we are one in the Gospel

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

Section One: Joyful together... sharing Christ's grace though diverse in roles-vv. 1-2

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Content Questions:

- Who are the writers of this letter?
- To whom is it written? Who is specifically highlighted?
- From where does the grace come that is offered?

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it important that this letter is written to all the saints?
- What could have been the purpose of highlighting the overseers and deacons separately?
- Why is it so important to recognize where our grace comes from?

Section Two: Joyful together... sharing partnership in Christ's work-vv. 3-7

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Content Questions:

- How often are the words all and always used here?
- How does Paul thank God for the Philippians according to this passage?
- What characterizes Paul's prayer?
- Of what is Paul certain?
- Why is it right for him to feel this way about them?

Discussion Questions:

- How often do you thank God for other partners in mission?
- How is your joy meter for your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- How certain are you that God is going to complete His work in you?
- Explain how grace unites us no matter where we are.

Section Three: Joyful together... sharing trials with Christ's compassion-vv. 8-11

8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Content Questions:

- With whose affection does Paul yearn?
- What is Paul's prayer? How will this love be characterized?
- What are the hoped for results of Paul's prayer?

Discussion Questions:

- Do you yearn for your brothers and sisters with the affection of Jesus?
- What would *abounding in love* for one another look like?
- What would it mean to approve what is excellent?
- What glorifies God according to this passage? Where might He be more glorified in your life?