

Mid-Week Recharge Bible Study
Pastor Pat McElroy, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee
9/21/11

Philippians, *Holy Joy*
Week One: The Joy of Proclamation-vv. 1:12-31

Introduction:

Setting

Time

Themes- Boldly, joyfully preach the Gospel everywhere

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

Section One: Rejoice when Christ is preached by false or true motives-vv. 12-19

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,

13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.

16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17 The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Content Questions:

- What is the purpose of Paul's imprisonment?
- What has been the response of the other brothers in prison from Paul's example?
- What are the motives that some have for preaching Christ?
- What is the result regardless of their motives?

Discussion Questions:

- Where is Paul's ultimate joy in this section? How does that compare to your joy?
- How does Paul interpret his circumstances in this section? How might that inform us as to our circumstances?
- What is your vision for this community as a Christian?

Section Two: Rejoice whether Christ is preached by life or death-vv. 18b-26

18c Yes, and I will rejoice,

19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,

20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.

23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,

26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Content Questions:

- What is Paul's certain hope in verses 18b-19?
- What is Paul's goal in verse 20?
- Does the completion of Paul's goal depend on his living or dying according to verses 21-26?
- For whose good will it be for him to remain? For whose good would it be for him to go?
- What is Paul's goal in verse 26?

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to glory in Christ? How do you do that?
- How important is it to you to glory in Christ? Is it more important than your life or not? Be honest.
- There is a contentment in Paul's words. How content are you in Christ as it relates to life and death?

Section Three: Rejoice as you preach Christ boldly in the face of opposition-vv. 27-30

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Content Questions:

- What is Paul's primary concern in verse 27? What is the hoped for result of this concern?
- What does confidence in the Gospel inspire in the enemies of God?
- What has the Gospel granted to the Philippians in verses 29 and 30?

Discussion Questions:

- How is your unity with the body of Christ in your manner of life? What would it mean for us to stand firm in one spirit?
- How is your level of fear? What scares you about proclamation of the Gospel?
- Why is suffering highlighted here? What is so important about it?