Today's Theme

"More Journey To Joy"

"Finding Joy In Life" Part 5

August 22, 2021

What It Takes To Have Consistent Joy

- 1. We need to focus on God with difficulties.
- 2. We need to build better priorities in life.
- 3. We need to lean on God's power in life.
- 4. We need to be *loved* by someone.
- (1) We can't do life alone and have joy.
- (2) We need someone to help carry burdens.
- (3) We need someone to love us no matter what.
- (4) Only one thing can never be taken away: God.

5. We need a purpose to live for.

Phil 1:22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will-mean fruitful labor for me.

- (1) We ought to live w/a purpose bigger than us.
- (2) We ought to live w/a purpose that outlives us.

How To Live With An Eternal Purpose

1. Live life committed to God's eternal plan. Phil 1:22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

What Paul's saying to us

- (1) Allow God's plan to matter more than mine.
- (2) Be connected to what God wants for me.
- (3) One day: "The Next Call Is The Last Call".
- (4) Result: We live for something that outlives us.

2. Live our life in service of others.

The life of a servant

- (1) We are here to serve others.
 Phil 1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you
- **(2) We are here to** *help* **others** *progress* **spiritually.** Phil 1:25 for your progress
- (3) When we progress spiritually our joy grows. Phil 1:25 and joy in the faith,
- (4) My presence ought to *bring* others *joy*. Phil 1:26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

3. Live faithful to the gospel in every way.

To live out God's purpose IS to be faithful

- (1) Faithfully honor Jesus with life choices. Phil 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.
- (2) Faithfulness *gets* the message *out* to others. Phil 1:28 This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.
- (3) Faithfulness *helps* us through *suffering*. Phil 1:29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,
- (4) Faithfulness is God's *plan* for us. Phil 1:30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.