



Paradox
Part #1 – Joyful Suffering

Philippians 1:1-9a

Sermon Series Summary

As we read the Bible sometimes we come across confusing statements that seem to be more paradoxical than anything else. Our desire through the course of this series is to look primarily through the book of Philippians and lock in on a few of these paradoxical statements. We will answer the following questions:

- **Sermon #1** – Can you find joy in the midst of suffering?
- **Sermon #2** – Can I have everything, if I have nothing?
- **Sermon #3** – Can I find peace when I am anxious?
- **Sermon #4** – Can I be content in the midst of my need?

Sermon Summary

Can you find joy in the midst of suffering?

Can you find joy in the midst of your most trying times in life? Many people believe that joy can only be found in times of victory or times of great prosperity but God declares that joy can be found at any point of your life if you choose to walk with Him and live in the Spirit.

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."

Big Idea – Joy Can Be Found in the Midst of Turmoil

The Four Elements of Joy

Element #1 – The Joy of Remembering (v. 3)

- **Key Point** – The first key point that we examine comes to us from verse 3. You can always find joy by remembering the times of victory and blessing that you have had in the past. Many times we need to learn and remember the triumphs of the past to remind us of where those triumphs really came from, the Lord alone and His strength.

Element #2 – The Joy of Intercessory Prayer (v. 4)

- **Key Point** – The second key point that we examine comes to us from verse 4. No matter what circumstances we may be dealt in this life, we can always find joy by learning to pray for others and witness those prayers being answered by the Lord.

Element #3 – The Joy of Partnership (v. 5)

- **Key Point** – The third key point that we examine comes to us from verse 5. Paul is overwhelmed in this verse by the fact that during the midst of his most trying time, some of his fellow brothers and sisters-in-Christ come alongside of him, reminding him that he is not alone in this cause for the Gospel. Take joy in

knowing that as a Christian, you are not alone. Not only has God declared that He is with you but you have a church family that loves you right here at CCC.

Element #4 – The Joy of Anticipation (v. 6-8)

- **Key Point** – The final key point that we examine comes to us from verses 6-8. As we read these verses, we are reminded of the words found in Romans 8: Nothing can separate us from the Love of God. Nothing in this world separates us from the love of God. He loves us no matter how many hardships we face or how little money we might have or how little possessions we may accumulate. The Lord loves us and even in the most trying times of our lives, even if everything in the world has been stripped away from us we can still find joy as we look forward to the love of the Lord becoming complete on the day we are united with Him for eternity. We are saved through Jesus alone!

Memory Verse:

Philippians 1:4 – In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.

Sermon Challenge

- **Partners in Peace** – Join us over the next two months as we begin a new prayer initiative. Find at least one other person that you can meet with twice a week from now until the end of the year and pray for peace and joy to overwhelm your heart, mind, and soul as well as praying for peace and joy to consume God's churches in our community and pray for God's peace to transform our country.