



Part 12: Protecting Our Joy

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All scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.

Christian Joy is the emotional response of the soul from the Holy Spirit which produces supernatural spiritual strength for life. (Galatians 5:22, Nehemiah 8:10)

REVIEW

Shining Examples

Timothy: The Servant Heart: Willing, Caring, Selfless

Epaphroditus: The Sacrificial Heart: Faithful, Empathetic, Fearless

Study Verse Section

Philippians 3:1-3 (ESV)-**Finally**, (λοιπόν) *henceforth, now then* **my brothers, rejoice** (χαίρω) *rejoicing constant and continually*, **in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble** (ὀκνηρός) *lit. "lazy" to me and is safe* (ἀσφαλής) *a safeguard for you. Look out* (βλέπω) *diligently looking*, **"beware" for the dogs** (κύων) *wild dogs, look out for the evildoers*, (κακούς ἐργάτας) *lit. workers of evil/bad/dangerous look out for those who mutilate the flesh* (κατατομή) *all three attributes describing legalistic Jewish Christians. For we are the circumcision speaking of the heart Rom 2:29, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory* (καυχάομαι) *lit. "to boast" in Christ Jesus and put no confidence* (πείθω) *to rely on in the flesh.*

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Keys to Protecting Joy

1. CHOOSE TO REJOICE IN JESUS

Philippians 3:1 (ESV)- Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

Philippians 1:18 (ESV)-What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

Philippians 2:17-18 (ESV)-Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering... I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

2. CHOOSE TO REJECT JOY STEALERS

Philippians 3:2 (ESV)- Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

Galatians 5:6-8 (ESV)- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

3. CHOOSE TO RELY ON GOD ALONE

Philippians 3:3 (ESV)-For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)-for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Colossians 1:29 (NASB)- For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

John 15:5 (ESV)- I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

We are robbed of joy when we rely on our ritual (5a), rearing(5b), religion (5c), righteousness(6).

Here is the Point: Protect your joy with good choices!

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