

Rejoice in the Lord Phil. 4:4

Thesis: To show reasons why we should rejoice throughout the book of Philippians.

Introduction:

- A. Throughout the book of Philippians, we read of the joy that Paul had.
 - 1. The amazing part about the joy in this book is the fact that Paul wrote it while in prison.
 - 2. **Phil. 1:12-13** - But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, {13} so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

- B. 19 times in this book, Paul uses a term that indicates the joy that he had.
 - 1. Rejoice or rejoicing or rejoiced – 12
 - 2. Joy – 4
 - 3. Glad or gladness – 3

I. We rejoice because of our “fellowship in the gospel” (1:3-6).

A. Paul was thankful because he could share his joy through his fellowship with the brethren in Philippi.

- 1. Paul was very thankful for the church in Philippi.
 - a. He had spent a great deal of time in Philippi.
 - b. **Acts 16:11-15** – Paul meets Lydia and stays with her in her home.
 - c. **Acts 16:16-40** – Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Philippi, yet he still loved the church there dearly.
- 2. Paul calls the church in Philippi his “joy and crown” (4:1).
- 3. Paul understood the value of the fellowship that he shared with them.
 - a. They had helped him on numerous occasions.
 - b. **Phil. 4:10, 14-20**

B. Today, we can rejoice because of the fact that we have fellowship with one another.

- 1. It is great to be able to come together and worship God.
 - a. Through this association, we gain encouragement and strength.
 - b. We know that we are not alone in this world, but that we have one another to count on.
 - c. **Heb. 10:24-25** - And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, {25} not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- 2. This fellowship comes only through Christ.

- a. **I Jn. 1:7** - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- b. It is only when we are faithful to Him that we have true fellowship with one another.

II. We rejoice because “Christ is preached” (1:18).

A. Paul’s main goal was to make sure that Christ was preached (1:12-18).

- 1. Some were preaching Christ because that is what they wanted to do.
 - a. Some were preaching Christ because of the envy and strife.
 - b. Paul did not care why they preached Christ, he cared only that Christ was preached (1:18).
- 2. From the time of his conversion until his death, Paul had spent his entire life preaching Christ.
 - a. Paul went around the world preaching Jesus as the Christ.
 - 1) **Acts 9:20** - Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.
 - 2) **Acts 13-28** is all about Paul and his work in preaching Christ.
 - b. Even in prison, Paul preached Jesus.
 - 1) **Acts 16** – Paul and Silas are in prison in Philippi.
 - 2) **Acts 21-28** – Paul is preaching while being taken to Rome.
 - 3) **Phil. 4:22** - All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar’s household.
 - 4) Paul always preached Jesus as the Christ.

B. Today, we can rejoice when Christ is preached.

- 1. In fact, it is our duty as the Lord’s church to preach Christ.
 - a. **Mk. 16:15** - And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - b. It is up to us, as disciples of Christ, to go and preach the gospel of Christ
- 2. Christ is the only way to salvation.
 - a. **Jn. 14:6** - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
 - b. **Acts 4:12** - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
- 3. Because He is the only way to salvation, we have an obligation to tell others about Him.
 - a. If we do not tell others about Christ, then we could be held responsible for their not knowing about Him.
 - b. We would then be guilty of violating the command of Christ to go and preach to the world.
 - c. While we are not responsible for the reaction of others to the gospel of Christ, we are responsible for teaching them of Christ.

III. We rejoice because of the opportunity to suffer for the sake of Christ (2:16-18).

A. Paul had suffered a great deal for Christ, yet he rejoiced in it (2:12-18).

1. Remember that Paul was in prison because he had preached Jesus as the Christ.
2. Throughout the book of Acts, we see where he is being persecuted for the sake of Christ.
 - a. **Acts 9:23-25** – Immediately after Paul was converted and began to preach Christ, the Jews tried to kill him.
 - b. **Acts 14:19-20** – Paul is stoned by the Jews in Lystra.
 - c. Throughout the rest of the book of Acts, we read of the persecutions that Paul endured.
3. Paul even suffered persecutions while in Philippi.
 - a. **Acts 16:16-40** – Paul is imprisoned in Philippi.
 - b. **I Thes. 2:2** - But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.
4. **II Cor. 11:23-28** (Paul sums up his persecutions) - Are they ministers of Christ?-- I speak as a fool-- I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. {24} From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. {25} Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; {26} in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; {27} in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—{28} besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

B. Today, we can rejoice for the opportunity to suffer for Christ.

1. The early church rejoiced when they suffered for the sake of Christ.
 - a. **Mt. 5:10-12** - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. {11} Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. {12} Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
 - b. **Acts 5:41** - So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.
2. We can rejoice when we suffer because God is glorified through it.
 - a. **I Pet. 4:12-19** - Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; {13} but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. {14} If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of

God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. {15} But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. {16} Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. {17} For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? {18} Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" {19} Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

- b. **Ps. 34:19** (God promises to deliver us out of these troubles) - Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

IV. In all that we do, we "rejoice in the Lord" (3:1, 4:4).

- A. When we are in Christ, there is always a reason to rejoice.
- B. It is only in Christ that we have salvation.

Conclusion: