

rejoice

[my
choice.]

**PART
1**

A SERMON SERIES ON PHILIPPIANS

April 19, 2015 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

TO REJOICE IS MY CHOICE

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 1:1-11

BACKGROUND OF PHILIPPIANS

No other letter contains the love and affection that this one does from Paul.

Paul is writing to thank them for their partnership in the Gospel.

Paul is writing from prison in Rome around 61 A.D. (Read about it in the end of Acts.)

He is in prison for preaching the Gospel.

The church in Philippi was planted by Paul about 10 years prior to this letter. (Acts 16)

ROOTED IN GRACE (CHARIS)

1. Charis = **GRACE**
2. Chara = **JOY**
3. Eucharisteo = **TO GIVE THANKS**
4. Chairō = **TO REJOICE**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REJOICE?

*To dwell on **GOD'S GRACE** ...*

*and let it **DEFINE** my life...*

REVELING in it...

*because it **SUPERSEDES** any and every other thing!*

*Therefore, to **REJOICE** is **MY CHOICE**.*

HOW PAUL REJOICES IN HIS LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

*The opening of his letter sets the tone for all of it, showing Paul's joy and his **CHOOSING** to rejoice!*

1. Paul rejoices by **BEING THANKFUL** . (v. 3)
2. Paul rejoices by **PRAYING** . (v. 4)
3. Paul rejoices by **LOVING** . (v. 3, 8)
4. Paul rejoices by **SERVING JESUS** . (v. 5-7)
5. Paul rejoices by **BEING HOPEFUL** . (v. 6, 9-11)

CHOOSE TO REJOICE!

*Like Paul, you can **choose** to rejoice by...*

1. Focusing on: **JESUS**
2. Focusing on: **OTHERS**
3. Focusing on: **YOURSELF**

HOMework



Open Your Group in Prayer. Use the Prayer Guide on the next page for Suggestions.

1. What do you think of when you think of “joy”?
2. What’s the difference between joy and happiness?
3. Pastor Josh mentioned the terms “grace”, “joy”, “thankfulness”, and “rejoice” are all rooted in the same Greek word. They all refer back to God’s grace! Take some time to read through the entire letter to the Philippians and mark every instance of any of those words. How many do you count?
4. Do you agree with Pastor Josh that the extent to which you experience joy is up to you? In other words, do you agree that “**to rejoice is my choice**”?
5. Paul is writing this letter from prison. He’s been through a lot and has sacrificed a lot to spread the gospel and plant churches. How is it that he seems to write with such joy, hope, and love in the midst of his suffering? How does he **choose** to rejoice?
6. What are some of the hard things you’re facing right now? How does Paul serve as an example for you to have joy in the midst of any situation? Are you making the choice to rejoice?
7. **Read Acts 16:11-40.** Who are some of the people that helped start the church in Philippi? How are they unique? How is Paul’s approach toward each of them unique?
8. What does this diversity tell you about the power of the Gospel?
9. **Read Philippians 1:1-11.** Now imagine yourself as one of the people Paul encountered in Acts 16 in Philippi. What might be coming to mind for them as they hear Paul’s letter read to them? What/who might Paul be thinking of when he is writing?
10. What is *true* “fellowship” or “partnership” according to the Bible? (**See Philippians 1:3-7**)
11. Look back at the definition of “Rejoice” presented during the message. What stands out to you about it?

Definition of Rejoice:

*To dwell on God’s grace and let it **define** my life*

*—reveling in it—because it **supersedes** any and every other thing!*

12. **Read Colossians 3:16.** How would doing this help you to rejoice?
13. Take some time as a group (and on your own) to memorize the definition of what it means to rejoice.

