

rejoice [my choice.]

**PART
2**

A SERMON SERIES ON PHILIPPIANS

April 26, 2015 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

ADVANCING THE GOSPEL

REJOICING IN THE MIDST OF HARDSHIP

Philippians 1:12-18a

WHAT IT MEANS 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!*

HAPPINESS VS. JOY

*Happiness is focused on my **HAPPENINGS***

*Joy is focused on **GOD'S GRACE***

THE RESULTS OF PAUL'S CHOICE TO REJOICE

We see Paul choose to rejoice because his focus was not on his happenings, but on God's grace.

1. By Paul choosing to rejoice, God used his circumstances to **MAKE THE GOSPEL MORE WIDELY KNOWN.** (v. 13)

2. By Paul choosing to rejoice, God used his circumstances to **ENCOURAGE** others, making them more **CONFIDENT** in their faith and more **BOLD** in their witness. (v. 14ff)

Imagine if Paul had only fixed his mind on his happenings rather than God's grace???

It begs the question, where is **MY FOCUS?**

Am I choosing to rejoice?

How is my choice influencing others and advancing the gospel?

HOMework



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

1. Can you recite the definition of what it means to rejoice from memory? Try it!
2. Are there any times this week where you found yourself faced with a *choice* to rejoice? Tell your group about it. What did you choose?
3. This week we saw Paul rejoicing in the midst of hardship. **Read Philippians 1:12-18a.** What did Paul rejoice over? Make a list.
4. Paul always desired and planned to go visit the church in Rome (see **Romans 1:10**), but he never imagined the way he would end up going. You can read about it in **Acts 21:17 to 28:31**. It started with his arrest in Jerusalem. Then he was moved to a prison in Caesarea for a couple years. An appeal to appear before Caesar eventually sent Paul to Rome by sea. The journey included a shipwreck and being bitten by a poisonous snake. When he finally made it to Rome, he wasn't a free man able to come and go as he pleased, he was a prisoner in chains. — God had other plans for Paul. How have you had your plans changed by God?
5. If you take the time to read through **Acts 21:17 to 28:31**, you'll see that Paul faced all kinds of obstacles and hardships. If all those things happened to you, how would you react? Put yourself in Paul's shoes. How would you feel? What would you be thinking?
6. What we read in Philippians is written by Paul sometime during or after the latter part of **Acts Chapter 28**. In **Philippians 1:12ff**, we see him looking back at all these events, what does he say about them? Is he bitter? Angry? Depressed? Why or why not?
7. When you look back at some of the hardships of your own life, how do you see them? Are you bitter? Angry? Depressed? Joyful? Why or why not? What can you learn from Paul?
8. When we look at Paul, we see a man who is joyful in the midst of hardship. When people look at your circumstances and your life—your reaction to them, what do they see? Do they see a joyful person?
9. **Read Psalm 30:11-12.** The Psalmist thanks God for turning his mourning into dancing. How have you seen God do this in your life? ***Have you LET him?***
10. As a group, **read aloud Psalm 33:20-22 and 34:4-5, 8, 18-19.** Discuss these verses and to what extent you've let them define you life and attitude. Spend time praying for each other, helping each other choose joy.

