

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

November 19, 2020



“Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.”
Philippians 2:17-18

The first Zoom sermon I preached after the onset of Covid was from Philippians, entitled “Choose Joy.” The sermon was a revision of an old favorite of mine that I preached at a few churches in 1984-85, around the time the first *Ghostbusters* movie came out. I had entitled it “*The Joybusters*.” I remember getting the basic outline from a book by Warren Wiersbe, but altered it to fit my “Joybusters” theme.

The premise of the sermon was that we are to be people who are characterized by our joy. After all, joy is a fruit of the Spirit and we are bound for glory, so what could possibly take our joy away? We know that we should look at it that way, but there are things that wage war against our joy. The sermon covered four potential “joy-busters”: *circumstances, people, things, and worry*. These four correspond to the four chapters in Philippians. See a *short synopsis of the sermon in the sidebar*.

I think it’s easy to see the application of this sermon to the present day. Our circumstances seem to change daily and that can cause anxiety. Many people in our society are acting strange and there is a wide divergence of opinion on many cultural issues. When it comes to “things,” I think we would agree that our most important *physical* thing is our health.

I hope through all of this we are able to maintain a single-minded devotion to the gospel, a humble love for all people, a Christ-centered mind that keeps our material things in perspective and that have all learned to be content in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. In other words, in spite of all the uncertainty, I hope we can learn to “rejoice.” “Again,” Paul says, “rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4).

JoyBusters (Philippians)

I. Circumstances (the situation that “surrounds” us at any given time)
E.g., fallout from Covid restrictions: job trouble, no school, loneliness, etc. Paul was in “chains” – imprisoned for his faith. (Philippians 1:7, 13-14).

The answer? Single-mindedness. For Paul, his “one thing” was the “progress of the gospel.”

Philippians 1:12, “Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel” (NASB).

II. People “If it weren’t for people, we’d have a better life!” Wait, what?? Paul had some people problems: Philippians 1:15a, 17a.

Answer? A humble mind. Serve others.

Philippians 2:3 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit but in humility count others more significant than yourself.”

III. Things. Paul had nice things, a nice life. Philippians 3:4-6
Answer? A Christ-centered mind. His things were “rubbish.”

Philippians 3:8b, “For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.”

IV. Worry. Being in prison, Paul had more reason to worry than most. We worry a lot, especially with a disease circulating among us.

Answer? A contented mind. Que sera, sera (“what will be will be”)

Philippians 4:11, “Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”

And, of course, the Rx is prayer: Philippians 4:6-7.

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