

There is Lasting Joy in Sacrificial Service for Jesus!

Philippians 2:17-24
by Pastor Dan Dickerson

Introduction

- There is passing happiness in temporal pleasures and things which apart from God end in emptiness and vanity – Ecclesiastes 1:2-3
- The life that lacks faith and obedience to God ends in emptiness – Ecclesiastes 2:21-23
- We are easily deceived – Galatians 6:7-8; 1 John 2:15-17; Luke 12:20
- We need the mind of God and Christ to live now in the light of eternity – Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13-14; Philippians 2:5
- There is lasting joy in sacrificial service for God and others - Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 12:2
- A sermon in sandals, what the joy of sacrificial service looks like in redeemed flesh – Philippians 2:17-24

1. Lasting Joy seen in Paul's sufferings – Philippians 2:17; 1:4, 18, 26

2. Lasting Joy seen in the Philippians giving – Philippians 2:17-18; 4:14-18; 2 Corinthians 9:7

3. Lasting Joy seen in Timothy's service – Philippians 2:19-24; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 2 Timothy 1:7; 2:22; 3:15-17; 4:2-5

- Willing to go – verse 19
- Like minded – verse 20
- Sincerely caring for others – verse 20
- Christ centered not self-centered – verse 21
- Proven character – verse 22
- Serving as a son with a father – verse 22
- Serving with Paul in the gospel – verse 22

Application

- There is only one atoning sacrifice in Christ alone you must receive to have forgiveness of sins and eternal life – Hebrews 7:27; John 14:6
- As a believer, surrendering fully your body and soul to God as a living sacrifice is your reasonable service, privilege, honor and responsibility – Romans 12:1-2
- God calls every believer to die to self and answer the call to follow in Christ's steps of joyful, sacrificial service – Luke 9:23; Hebrews 12:2
- Happiness is based on changing happenings and circumstances!

- Joy is available to the believer regardless of the circumstances and is the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the surrendered, obedient follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Lasting joy is based on relationships not circumstances, faith not sight, the eternal not the temporal!
- Ultimate joy comes from living a life of service for Christ – Romans 12:1-2
- **There is lasting joy in sacrificial service for Jesus**

Discussion

- Have I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior?
- Have I surrendered my life a living sacrifice to follow and do God's will in my life according to Romans 12:1-2?
- What are some examples of changing happiness dictated by changing circumstances in my life?
- When have I experienced deep joy in my heart in spite of very difficult circumstances?
- How could I be more joyful in my sufferings like Paul, and what are things that help me to have more joy?
- How could I be more joyful in my giving like the Philippians? How will I choose to let eternal matters shape my priorities this week?
- How could I be more joyful in my service like Timothy? With whom will I share Christian joy this week, they with me and me with them?