

PURSUING JESUS: DISCOVERING HIS JOY

Philippians, #1

January 6–7, 2024 // Sermon Study Guide // Pastor Nate Miller

Text: Philippians and Acts 16:5–15

Truth Points: What truth was covered this weekend in the message?

1. Read Acts 16:5–15. What do you notice about the Holy Spirit's role in the birth of this church? How does the missionary team respond? How is this church's establishment a significant moment in history? What does this teach us about responding to the Holy Spirit?
2. What is joy? Why is joy so difficult for many people to find? Where do people look for joy?
3. Read Philippians 1:19–21. What do we learn about Paul's circumstances as he writes this letter? How can Paul have joy even in this circumstance? How is Paul's single-minded focus on display? What does it look like for you to have this kind of focus?
4. Read Philippians 2:1–3. What is the second mindset required to have joy? How is this unique in our day? Who are the two examples of this attitude in this chapter? What stands out to you about those examples? How does this create joy?
5. Read Philippians 3:8–10. Paul values Jesus over all things. How can you see that in this passage? What has Jesus become for Paul? Why has Jesus become that for Paul? How does this create joy?
6. Read Philippians 4:4–6. What kind of peace is Paul describing? How does peace with others bring joy? How does peace within bring joy? How does peace in every circumstance bring joy? What kind of priorities do you need to have peace in these areas?

Reflection Points: How does God want me to think, feel, act, and speak because of this truth?

1. Do I have joy in my life? Is my joy in Jesus clear and obvious, or am I a grumpy Christian? Which of the four mindsets do I see most evident in my life? In which of these four mindsets do I see the most room for growth in my life? What do I need to do to grow?
2. Do I value Jesus over all things? When others look at my life, would they say that Jesus is my treasure? Would they say that Jesus is my righteousness? Would they say that Jesus is my ambition? How would they know?
3. Of the three areas of peace (peace with others, peace within, peace in every circumstance), where have I experienced peace? Where do I need to focus on being at peace? How do I pursue a Jesus-centered peace in that area?

Action Points: What am I going to do this week because of this truth?

1. **Memorize:** Philippians 3:8–10.
2. **Find Joy!** Read the whole book of Philippians every day this month. Underline the words “joy,” “rejoice,” and “cheer” when you find them. Pray for help in finding Jesus-centered joy to begin 2024.
3. **Share the Story:** Share with a friend what you’re learning about Jesus in 2024.