

# Philippians Topic 2

## Joy & Rejoicing in the Christian life – Part 1 & 2

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# It is Well with My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

## It is Well with My Soul (2)

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,  
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!  
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

## *Charis* Family of Words

charis	grace, gifting
eucharisteo	give thanks (good+grace)
eucharistia	giving thanks (good+gracing)
chara	joy
chairō	rejoice
charizomai	give graciously

# Grace everywhere

## Occurrence of *charis*-words in Philippians

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
2 - grace	2 - joy	1 - rejoice	1 - joy
3 - thank	9 - given		4 - rejoice
4 - joy	17 - rejoice		4 - rejoice
7 - grace	17 - joy		6 - thanksgiving
18 - rejoice	18 - rejoice		10 - rejoiced
18 - rejoice	18 - joy		15 - giving
25 - joy	28 - rejoice		23 - grace
29 - given	29 - joy		

# Bookends

*1:1-2 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.*

- This greeting/salutation pair is in almost all of Paul's epistles
- This is a particularly Pauline convention
- What is the significance? What Biblical truth does this correspond to?
  - The Christian life begins and ends with Grace – Galatians 3:3
  - Grace pervades every aspect of our lives
  - We need to be constantly reminded of Grace
  - This illustrates Paul's gracious worldview

# Grace Encompassing

(Some) Manifestations of *Charis* throughout Philippians

- ① *Charis* in fellowship
  - 1:3, 25; 2:18
- ② *Charis* is preaching
  - 1:18
- ③ *Charis* in Christian growth
  - 2:1
- ④ *Charis* in service
  - 2:17; 4:10, 15
- ⑤ *Charis* in everything
  - 3:1; 4:1, 4, 6

## Thanks for the memories

*1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.*

- What is the source of Paul's joy regarding these believers?
  - See also 4:1
  - See Ephesians 1:15-16
- What does it mean to have "joy in every prayer"?
- What is the source of our fellowship?
  - Participation in the gospel = sharing in the preaching of the gospel
  - How do we share in the preaching of the gospel?
  - See 1:18



# Come Together

*1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.*

- What is Paul convinced of?
  - See 1:22-23
  - What keeps us engaged in our earthly life?
- How does fellowship relate to Christian growth?
- What is the purpose of fellowship?
  - Is it personal, or is it just business?
- How are the believers to view Paul?
  - What does it mean for them to have “proud confidence in [Paul]”?
  - What does it mean for this confidence to “abound in Christ Jesus”?
    - See Romans 5:15

# The Messenger

*2:28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. 29 Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.*

- Why should the believers “receive [Epaphroditus] in the Lord with all joy”?
  - What is significant about the phrase “in the Lord”?
- For what reason did Paul send Epaphroditus?
  - How does this relate back to “partakers of the gospel”?

# Whatever it takes

*1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice*

- Key verse – 1:12
- What ought to be our main focus on this globe?
- Two viewpoints
  - The chief purpose of man is to glorify God.
  - God will be glorified in all that happens to me.
- Is there a *bad* way for the gospel to go forth?
  - or is this the wrong question?
  - See John 12:32

## I was so much older then ...

*2:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, I make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

- What is Paul's greatest desire for the saints?
  - How high a priority is the believer's earthly walk to Paul?
- How do we "[be] of the same mind"?
- Whose mind are we to have?
  - See *phreneo*
- How does our spiritual growth complete our joy?

## Share the joy

*2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. 18 You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.*

- What is the essence of “Christian service”?
  - What aspect of the believer’s walk is *not* about faith?
- In what exactly is Paul rejoicing?
  - Is it in the fact that he is “being poured out as a drink offering”?
  - Is it in the “sacrifice and service of [their] faith”?
- What does it mean for Paul to share his joy?
  - Does this relate to our fellowship together?

# The gift that grows

*4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.*

- What is Paul's main focus in this passage?
  - What had Paul learned about earthly living?
- What did Paul see as the greatest aspect of the "gift"?
  - How do needs in the lives of saints fit into God's growth plan for us?
  - See 4:15-18

# What is the alternative?

*3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.*

- What is the surest way to “victory in the Christian life”?
- What is the way opposite of rejoicing?
- What stands in the way of our rejoicing?
  - What keeps us from rejoicing?

# Rejoice. Repeat

*4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!*

*4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

- How essential is rejoicing in the life of believer?
  - What does our rejoicing say about our understanding of Grace?
  - See 1 Thess. 5:18
- What is the difference between rejoicing “for” everything, and rejoicing “in” everything?
- What are we rejoicing in?
  - See Romans 8:28-29