

Good News Church GA
Men's Ministry
2-25-26

Sermon Series:
"Joy in the Journey"
Paul's letter to the Philippians

SCRIPTURE TEXT: Philippians 2:19-30 The Friendship of Joy

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.

²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.

²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died.

But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

Sermon & Book Notes

Sermon (Warner) – *"The Friendship of Joy"*
"Be Joyful" (Wiersbe) Ch. 7 – *"A Priceless Pair"*

▪ **How would you define friendship?**

- one attached to another by affection or esteem

▪ **What are the characteristics of a good friend?**

1. Loyal / Trustworthy
2. Honest / Truthful
3. Supportive / Encouraging
4. Accepting / Non-Judgmental
5. Listen / Interested in you
6. Assume the Best / Forgiving
7. Caring / Empathetic
8. Reliable / Consistent
9. Considerate / Respectful
10. Authentic / Comfortable
11. Humor / Fun

▪ **Can you think of a time with a friend sacrificed for your good?**

- *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*
– John 15:13
- *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*
– Galatians 6:2

Timothy (Lystra)

- “My beloved and faithful son in the Lord” (1 Cor. 4:17)
- Raised by his parents (mom, Lois) and grandmother (Eunice)
- His father was said to be a Greek while his mother was a Jew.
- Had an impressive knowledge of the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:15)
- Willing to be circumcised (Acts 16:1-3) so not to hinder the spread of the gospel.

Epaphroditus (Philippi)

- Paul calls him a “brother, fellow co-worker, and fellow soldier” (Phil. 2:15)

Friendship of Joy

1. Friendships fuel joy.
 - We need community / friends. We were created for it
2. The enemy seeks to isolate.
 - The enemy seeks to quarantine you in isolation (i.e., punishment of solitary confinement)
 - Seek to stay connected.
3. Friends enter into your suffering.
 - When Paul needed his friends the most, they were there in prison with him (Timothy, Epaphroditus, Luke, Aristarchus, Epaphras, Tychicus, and Onesimus)
 - *“Friends bring hope from despair, joy from sadness, and encouragement when our spirit is downcast.”*
 - *“Friends divide sorrows and multiply joy.”*
 - Presence is huge.

Receiving & Giving

- In addition to thinking about what kind of friends we want to have, we also have to think about what kind of friend we’re going to be.
 - Are you a... grumbler (vs. gratitude), arguer (vs. peacemaker), taker (vs. giver), complainer (vs. encourager), fountain (or a drain)?
 - BOOK – *“The submissive mind is not the product of an hour’s sermon, or a week’s seminar, or even a year’s service. The submissive mind grows in us as, like Timothy, we yield to the Lord and seek to serve others.”* – Warren Wiersbe

Jesus

- The most important friendship is with Jesus

- The key to every deep friendship is that it be rooted in friendship with Jesus. Friends who share faith in Christ are a blessing to the soul.
- The things that non-Believers love about their friends who are Believers (i.e., grace, kindness, love, etc.), are actually the things they love about Jesus.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you... 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you." – Jesus (John 15:9-16a)

Discussion Questions

1. What jumps out at you from the scripture text, book reading, or sermon notes?
2. Who is someone that stands out as having been a good friend at some point in your life? What made them a good friend?
3. Can you think of a time when a friend sacrificed for your good (or you for theirs)?
4. What are your Top 5 most important characteristics of being a friend?
5. How is it that someone can learn to become (and actually become) better friends?
6. How and when did you first begin to experience friendship with God?
7. What (if any) barriers might be keeping you from deeper friendship with God?
8. From your experience, what is different in your friendships with Christians and non-Christians?
9. Is there anything you'd like to work on in being a better friend?
10. What's your primary take away from this discussion?