

LIVING IN A MAD, SAD, AND BAD WORLD WITH JOYFUL INFLUENCE

Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide

Philippians 3:17-21

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Reasons We Can Have Joy Until Jesus Returns

1. We can have internal _____ in our hearts in spite of the pressures, pains and problems from this world.

- † *John 16:1-2*, Jesus said, “I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith. 2 For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God” (NLT)
- † *John 16:13*, Jesus said, “When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future” (NLT).
- † *John 16:33*, Jesus said, “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (NLT).

2. We are insulated with divine _____ as we live in this world.

- † *Acts 1:8*, Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (NLT).

Two Words Stand Out In Acts 1:8

- The first one is “witnesses.” This is the Greek New Testament word [μάρτυς; martus]. This is where we get our English word “_____.”
- The second word is “power.” This is the Greek New Testament word is [δύναμις; dunamis]. It is where we get our English word “_____.”

3. We are to be _____ in our purpose regardless of our _____.

- † *Philippians 2:2-4*, “Then make me truly joyful by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too” (PAR).

How Can We Keep The Joy Alive For Others?

1. We need to be Christlike _____ to others (Phil. 3:17).

- The word translated as “observe” is the Greek New Testament word [σκοπέω; skopeō]. It is where we get our English word “_____.” The word translated as “example” is the Greek New Testament word [τύπος; typos]. This is where we get our English word “_____.” It was originally used to mean “a blow, a dent, a mark left by striking.” Over time it came to mean “type, pattern, example, or form or model.”
- † *Luke 10:19*, Jesus said, “For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost” (NLT).
- We must realize that at times it is the _____ things in the church that are keeping us from the _____ things of God. It is the _____ things in the church that keeps us from the _____ things for God.
- † *1 Corinthians 11:1*, “Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ” (NLT).

2. We need to be aware that there are _____ of the cross of Christ in the church (Phil. 3:18-19).

- † Matthew 7:15, Jesus said, "Beware of false believers, preachers, and teachers who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves" (PAR).

Paul Mentions 3 Traits These Enemies Of The Cross Have

(a) Their appetite is driven by a false sense of _____ (Phil. 3:18-19).

- † Colossians 2:8, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ" (NASB).

(b) Their appetite is driven by what is _____ (Phil. 3:18-19).

- † Luke 12:19b, Jesus said, "They have the philosophy of, 'Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!'" (NLT)

(c) Their appetite is driven by greed that for _____ things (Phil. 3:18-19).

- † Luke 12:15, Jesus said, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions" (NIV).
 † Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (NASB).
 † Romans 6:14, "Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace" (NLT).
 † Acts 4:12, "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved. That name is Jesus Christ" (PAR).

3. We need to be aware that we are part of the Lord's collective _____ going to heaven (Phil. 3:20-21).

- † Proverbs 17:22, "A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones" (NASB).
 † Proverbs 15:5b, "A cheerful, joyful heart has a continual feast" (PAR).
 † 2 Corinthians 6:4-10, "In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind. ⁵We have been beaten, been put in prison, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, endured sleepless nights, and gone without food. ⁶We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love. ⁷We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense. ⁸We serve God whether people honor us or despise us, whether they slander us or praise us. We are honest, but they call us impostors. ⁹We are ignored, even though we are well known. We live close to death, but we are still alive. We have been beaten, but we have not been killed. ¹⁰Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything" (NLT).
 † Revelation 21:27, "There is a city in heaven called the New Jerusalem. No one who is immoral, lies, and commits acts of abomination will be allowed to enter it. Only those whose names are written the Lamb's Book of Life, whose citizenship is heaven will be allowed into heaven" (PAR).

******* Next Steps Devotional Questions *******

1. We looked at 3 reasons we can still have joy until Jesus comes. Which one do you need more in your life than the others and why?
2. We looked at 3 ways we can keep our joy alive for others. Which one of these 3 do you need more in your life than the others and why?
3. Under the topic of 3 enemies of the cross of Christ, have any of these in the past or now steal your joy? So, what would the Lord want you to do?