

## Series – Joy in Christ, a study of Philippians

### Joy in Suffering

**Philippians 1:19-30**

Story of young man and W. E. Gladstone, Prime Minister of England

Joy in Suffering – sounds crazy – is it masochism? no – Biblical

*(Matthew 5:10-12) -Jesus*

*(Acts 5:31) – Luke*

*(1 Peter 4:13) -Peter*

### I. Follow Paul's Example

**19-26**

#### A. His Discernment

**19-20**

1. Based on His confidence in the Holy Spirit and their prayers  
Fully expect and hope – no doubt
2. His soul aim was to follow after Christ  
Boldly and without shame - Deliverance or Death

#### B. His Dilemma

**21-24**

1. To live or to die – which is better
2. To live is Christ – what does it mean?
  - a. to know Christ fully  
*And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. John 17:3*
  - b. to imitate Christ fully  
*Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. 1 John 2:6*
  - c. to make Christ known fully *Acts 1:8*
  - d. to enjoy Christ fully  
*Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy. John 16:24*
3. To die is gain
  - a. depression is possible, but this is not suicide
  - b. gain means  
freedom from sin, doubt, temptation, suffering  
reunion with loved ones, great believers  
home created and inhabited by Christ

#### C. His Decision

**25-26**

1. Not my will but Christ's will be done *Galatians 2:20*
2. I live to serve others
  - a. to help others grow in faith
  - b. to help others experience joy

## II. Follow Paul's Exhortation

**27-30**

### A. His Request

**28**

#### 1. Worthy of the Gospel

- a. One spirit and mind = unity

*I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. John 17:21*

- b. One purpose – fighting for the Gospel

*Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous, Be strong. 1Corinthians 16:13*

#### 2. Courageous in the face of opposition

- a. encourages other believers
- b. destroys the unbeliever's basis
- C. assures believers of heaven

### B. His Reminder

**29-30**

#### 1. Faith is a gift

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5*

#### 2. Suffering is a gift *Matthew 5:10-12*

- a. it unites us with Christ
- b. it aligns us with the Prophets of the Old Testament
- c. It glorifies Christ  
confirming our faith  
drawing us close to Christ

What is our purpose for living? Can we rejoice in Suffering?

**Key – For me to live is Christ - then to die is gain**

Choices

For me, to live is money, and to die is to leave it all behind  
For me, to live is popularity, and to die is to be forgotten  
For me, to live is power, and to die is to lose it all  
For me, to live is possessions, and to die is empty

*What is your answer?*

*For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_*

*For me to die is \_\_\_\_\_*