

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

MORNING MESSAGE

“The Secret of Overwhelming Joy”

Philippians 1:21

INTRODUCTION

- A. Dr. Warren Wiersbe lists four thieves of joy
 - 1. Circumstances: events that accompany life
 - 2. People: family, friends, strangers
 - 3. Things: inanimate objects
 - 4. Worry: a troubled or anxious mind
- B. Paul wrote Philippians while in prison in Rome
 - 1. Circumstances had not robbed him of joy
 - a. Philippians 1:12, “the things which have happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel”
 - 2. People had not robbed him of joy
 - a. Philippians 1:15-18, “Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: the one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: but the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice”
 - 3. Things had not robbed him of joy
 - a. Philippians 4:11, “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content”
 - 4. Worry had not robbed him of joy
 - a. Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”
- C. What is the secret of overwhelming joy?
 - I. A PERSONAL TESTIMONY – “For to me”
 - A. Paul’s personal testimony is recorded three times in Acts
 - 1. Acts 9:1-20
 - 2. Acts 22:1-21
 - 3. Acts 26:1-23
 - B. Three personal testimonies are recorded in Paul’s first visit to Philippi
 - 1. The personal testimony of Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)

2. The personal testimony of the damsel (Acts 16:16-18)

3. The personal testimony of the jailer (Acts 16:19-34)

II. A PARTICULAR TESTIMONY – “to live is Christ”

A. Paul’s life was linked to Jesus Christ

B. Ecclesiastes and 1 Kings tell the story of Solomon’s search for joy in life

1. He tried luxury; Ecclesiastes 2:7, “I got me men servants and maidens”

2. He tried liquor; Ecclesiastes 2:3, “I sought in my heart to give myself to wines”

3. He tried lust; 1 Kings 11:3, “He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines”

4. He tried learning; 1 Kings 4:32, “And he spoke three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five”

III. A POWERFUL TESTIMONY – “and to die is gain”

A. Most people think of death as loss

B. What does a believer gain at death?

1. A presence; 2 Corinthians 5:8, “to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord”

2. A place; John 14:2, “I go to prepare a place for you”

3. A peace; Revelation 14:13, “that they may rest from their labors”