

Theme: As we walk in community with a focus on our eternal inheritance, we can experience joy, no matter what our circumstances are at present.

## **I. Intro – 25 Years Ago Today**

- A. I graduated from USNA 25 years ago today
- B. A lot has changed in life since then
- C. Married, 4 kids, several careers, etc.
- D. How can we have joy when facing uncertain future?
- E. How can we have joy in midst of trials that come?

## **II. A Life of Joy**

- A. The key theme of joy
  - 1. Paul prays with joy (v4)
  - 2. Joy, rejoice, etc – 16 times in letter
  - 3. Not to mention encouraged, hope, etc.
  - 4. There is a lot of positive “emotion” in letter!
- B. The call to a life of joy
  - 1. Commanded to rejoice 4 times (2:18; 3:1; 4:4)
  - 2. Joy is not optional or unachievable
  - 3. 3 times – rejoice in the Lord – last week

- 4. Not based on circumstances – but being in Christ
- 5. Two other things that nourish our joy – see below

## **III. A Life of Community**

- A. The key theme of community
  - 1. Paul’s joy rooted in partnership with them (vv4-5)
  - 2. Consistent – partner; love (vv 7-8; 4:15)
  - 3. Trait of Philippians (2 Cor 11:9; Rom 15:26)
- B. The call to a life of community
  - 1. Key call of letter is unity (1:27; 2:1-2; 3-4; 4:2)
  - 2. Lack of unity/community diminishes joy
  - 3. Lack of unity/community impedes Gospel

## **IV. A Life With An Eternal Focus**

- A. The key theme of an eschatological perspective
  - 1. Paul’s focus went into the day of Christ (v6)
  - 2. Key theme for Paul (1:10; 2:16; 3:20-21)
- B. The call to an eschatological perspective
  - 1. Enemies of cross have this world focus (3:18-19)
  - 2. Our heavenly citizenship, focus, hope (3:20-21)

3. Not escapism – eschatological focus

5. Experience the joy of the Lord – in all circumstances!

## V. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do we have the joy of the Lord?
  1. Do we see that God wants us to have joy?
  2. Do we see joy is in Lord – not circumstances?
  3. Difference between godly joy and earthly happiness
- B. Are we in community?
  1. Do we see connection between community and joy?
  2. Do I have community to sustain in tough times?
  3. Call to community, small group, etc
- C. Do we have an eschatological focus?
  1. Do we realize this life is not the goal?
  2. Do we realize this life does not add up – but eternity does?
  3. Do I measure “success” by now or eternity?
- D. Are we constructing a life built for joy?
  1. Joy comes from a life centered on Christ
  2. Joy comes from a life serving the Gospel
  3. Joy comes from a life lived in community
  4. Joy comes from a life with eschatological focus

### Living As A Community of Joy

Philippians 1:4-6

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1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

9 And when I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, **for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed.** I have kept myself from being a burden to you in any way, and will continue to do so.

2 Corinthians 11:9

26 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

Romans 15:26