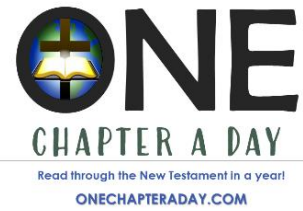


Week 30 – Finding joy (in the strangest of places)

May 22, 2022 – (weekly readings: Philippians 1-Colossians 2)



Memory Verse: Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV) ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

+++++sermon outline starts here+++++

Sermon outline

Introduction: what things in life bring you joy? Where do you find joy?

Joy is found in the Lord.

We find joy in our Lord when he is near.

1. Near in prayer
 - a. as we bring our petitions in prayer
 - b. as we bring him-thanks
2. when Christ is near promises peace
 - a. a transcendent piece
 - b. guarding peace
 - i. guarding our hearts**
 1. **Ephesians 3:17 (ESV) — 17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
 2. **Romans 8:27** ²⁷ And he who **searches hearts** **knows what is the mind** of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ¹
 3. **2 Corinthians 1:22 (ESV) — 22** and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
 - 4.
 - ii. guarding our minds him**
 1. **Philippians 2:5 (ESV) — 5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
 2. **Philippians 3:19 (ESV) — 19** Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
 3. **Philippians 4:7 (ESV) — 7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
 - iii. Gospel message: Jesus found joy at the cross**
 1. **Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV)** ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
 - iv. Joy – do you want more joy in your life**
 1. everyone does

+++++sermon outline ends here+++++

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ro 8:27–2 Co 1:22.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

Opening Psalm

Psalm 67:1-7 (NIV) ¹

May God be gracious to us and bless us

and make his face shine upon us,

that your ways may be known on earth,

your salvation among all nations.

May the peoples praise you, O God;

may all the peoples praise you.

May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

May the peoples praise you, O God;

may all the peoples praise you.

Then the land will yield its harvest,

and God, our God, will bless us.

God will bless us,

and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Opening Song:

Confession and Absolution

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

On another day, the one before He gave His life for us, our Lord said, "In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you." Today, this side of Easter, we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. But we cannot free ourselves from our sinning and our sinful condition. Let us therefore ask our heavenly Father for forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and our sinful condition.

Almighty God,

have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Although Jesus foretold about the disciples' scattering that very night, yet He said, "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you.

Amen! And may peace also be with you.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good,

by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Song:

Children's Message: (no song after the children's message)

Scriptures:

First reading: Philippians 1:3-11 (ESV)

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1, 4-9 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved....⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: John 16:23-33 (ESV) ²³ In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵ "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." ²⁹ His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹ Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Message Song:

Message:

Creed

Rite of Confirmation (insert here)

Prayers of the Church

As we pray together for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, you are invited to take a moment now in silent prayer to lift up the names and needs that are upon your heart this day.

(A time of silence for personal prayers)

We pray Lord Jesus, for all who call on Your name throughout the world. Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of pastors, teachers, and all the people of God that together

we may fulfill our callings with humility and grace for the building up of the Body of Christ.

We pray for Amy Formella, career missionaries in Africa.

Supply their needs and grant them boldness to speak the Gospel and live in ways that draw people to follow Christ, our Savior.

We pray for the for nations throughout the world:

That governments and leaders strive for peace and exercise justice wisely.

We pray for relief for the poor and justice for the oppressed

May they never be neglected or forgotten.

We pray for those who serve in our armed forces

Keep them safe that they may fulfill their calling, bringing peace to our troubled world.

We pray for all who are victimized by warfare and terrorism both here in our nation and around the world.

Help all to find comfort and hope in Christ

Turn the hearts of all the enemies of the cross to You

that all may come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We pray for all who are sick, especially...may they experience healing according to God's will.

That those with chronic or terminal diseases find comfort and hope in God's promise never to leave them nor forsake them.

We pray, Lord, for our hearts and homes

May our households be places of forgiveness, peace, and Christ-like love.

These, and all of our prayers that remain unspoken or are too deep for words, we commend to You, Holy God, trusting that You hear us, You love us, and You desire us to flourish; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion Song (during distribution)

The Dismissal & Sending

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace to serve the Lord.

Benediction

As you leave God's house today

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace."

(The Benediction is from & Numbers 6:24-26)

The Dismissal & Sending

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace to serve the Lord.

Benediction

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. We will not fear for the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

As you go, may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with His favor, and give you His peace.

Amen

Closing Song:

Sending

Go in peace to serve the LORD.

Thanks be to God!