

With Joy
August 1, 2010
Phil 1:1-11
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Synopsis:

Paul writes a joyful letter to joyful people, both of whom were not always joyful, but have become so because of the good news of Jesus Christ.

I.

The Goal

Phil 1:8 How I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus

READ 1:3-11 Emphasize the love and joy relationship

*Paul's best relationship was with Philippi

This is great! But Paul did not have this with other churches

READ other Salutation passages:

1. Rom 1:1-6 = cold/formal, Paul never been there
2. Gal 1:1-9; 5:11-112 = angry with traditional actions
3. 1Cor 1:1-2, 10-13 = frustrated with divisions

Which church are we?

- love and joy church
- cold and formal
- angry church
- divided church

The *goal* is to be the Philippian church, *but we're not there yet!*

II.

The Grumpy

Phil 1:7 Both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel

The Philippian church did not start out with love and joy

READ Acts 16:11-24

*The Philippian church had a rough start!

- Paul, Silas and a bunch of women outside of town
- Philippi a Roman military colony (think right wing bootblacks!)
- Paul and Silas beaten
- church consists of a group of women, their families, two bickering women (4:2), a jailer and family, a young fortune teller

SUM: This is hardly a great start for a church = Grumpy!

What about our church right now? GRUMPY!

- economy tanked, will continue for years (Brooks in NYT)
- politics are bitter (Obama low rating, Schwarzenegger low)
- air travel: This week flew to Colorado to teach
- 1. No liquids
- 2. Stand in security line
- 3. Take off shoes, belt, watch, money clip, toothpaste in a bag
- 4. Granny being patted down as a terrorist
- PCUSA in decline since '60's (losing 40-80K per year)
- PCUSA having a fight over sex
- PCUSA friend in Louisville: no pastor is happy!
- Geneva in decline for 20 years

We're grumpy people living in grumpy times

I'm grumpy!

How about you?

How about our church?

- cold and formal
- angry over traditions
- divided
- love and joy

*Paul began at Philippi in a mess

Good news about Jesus Christ comes to grumpy people in grumpy times living in a mess.

III.

The Gospel

Phil 1:5 Because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now

Word *gospel* = Greek *eu-angelion* = good news

- occurs in Philippians more than any other letter
- good news for grumpy people in grumpy times

What is the gospel? READ 1:1-11

NOTICE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| -makes us saints/holy | = changes us to be like God |
| -live in Christ Jesus/in Philippi | = where we live |
| -something we share | = all of us together |
| -gets started (began) not done | = new life now and later |
| -in midst of trouble (prison) | = always resistance |
| -overflows in us and the world | = restores things |

*Gospel = good news that God in Jesus the Messiah defeats evil and death (grumpy) by absorbing it on a cross, rising from the dead in victory so that we can now participate in the rule of God now and later.

Gospel is about reconciliation after brokenness!

-we're a broken people in need of reconciliation

-if that's where we are, then the gospel is good news

We're in tough times, things might get worse

Listen to Paul: READ Phil 4:10-13

Do we want to live with joy and strength now?

-happens when we begin to trust Jesus now

-praying, acting, loving, etc now