

# “Choosing Joy”

St. Andrew's Church \* Jan. 9, 2005 \* Philippians 1:12-25

Joy comes as a result of...

## 1. Trusting in the SOVEREIGN POWER of God.

**Philippians 1: 12-18a** - <sup>12</sup> And I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. <sup>13</sup> For everyone here, including all the soldiers in the palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold in telling others about Christ. <sup>15</sup> Some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry...<sup>17</sup>...They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. <sup>18</sup> But whether or not their motives are pure, the fact remains that the message about Christ is being preached, so I rejoice.

**Romans 8:28** - <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

## 2. Taking ADVANTAGE of the help God provides.

**Philippians 1:18b-20** - <sup>18</sup>... I will continue to rejoice. <sup>19</sup> For I know that as you pray for me and as the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will all turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> For I live in eager expectation and hope that I will never do anything that causes me shame, but that I will always be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past, and that my life will always honor Christ, whether I live or I die.

**Three divine resources: \* PRAYER of other believers**

- \* **POWER of the Holy Spirit**
- \* **PERSEVERING attitude**

**Luke 11:13** - (Jesus) “If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

**Philippians 2:12, 13** ... be even more careful to put into action God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. <sup>13</sup> For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey him and the power to do what pleases him.

## 3. Accepting 3rd place: JESUS OTHERS YOU

**Philippians 1:21-25** - <sup>21</sup> For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better. <sup>22</sup> Yet if I live, that means fruitful service for Christ. I really don't know which is better. <sup>23</sup> I'm torn between two desires: Sometimes I want to live, and sometimes I long to go and be with Christ. That would be far better for me, <sup>24</sup> but it is better for you that I live. <sup>25</sup> I am convinced of this, so I will continue with you so that you will grow and experience the joy of your faith.

**Philippians 2:20-21** - <sup>20</sup> I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. <sup>21</sup> All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ.

Translation key: Unless noted, all verses are New Living Translation. NCV = New Century Version