

Indestructible Joy – Week #1

Philippians 1:1-18a

1. Pastor Brent told a hypothetical story about a golfer losing some expensive golf balls with the word “be happy” written on them. Many times we let our outward circumstances be the gauge which determines our joy. What some of those “outward circumstances” which sometimes let determine our joy?
2. Paul talks more about “Joy” in Philippians more than any other book (16x in 104 verses) What are some things about Paul’s circumstances that make this so ironic?
3. Pastor Brent illustrated Paul’s emotional stability with stabilizers on a cruise ship. When have you or someone you known felt that stability amidst the turbulator waters of life?
4. As Pastor Brent said “Paul is insatiably consumed with Jesus” – this is the source of his Joy. What are some evidences in this passage and the rest of the book that illustrate this?
5. Read Phil.1:2. *“Grace and peace to you from Good and Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”* What did you learn about Rome and their Emperors use of the terms “evangelist, gospel, peace & Lord” that gives more meaning to this phrase. How is this introductory phrase at the beginning of Paul’s prison letters (Eph, Phil, Col) a political push back against what the world offers for joy?
6. Someone with Indestructible Joy is insatiably consumed with seeing the sufficiency of Jesus’s grace. Anything beyond what Paul has received in God’s Son is superfluous (beyond what is necessary) Why do we sometimes think that God owes us something more than what he has given us in His Son?
7. Someone with Indestructible Joy is insatiably consumed with seeing Jesus’ work in others. Phil.1:3-8- What is Paul excites Paul about the Philippian believers? If you have time, read Acts 16 (the start of the Philippian church). What do you think Paul is contemplating as he writes the letter to the Philippians? How can we display that same joyful attitude towards other believers in our church today?
8. Someone with Indestructible Joy is insatiably consumed with seeing Jesus’ advancement over their own. Phil.1:12-18a How does Paul show that his is dead to self? Tell of a time when you needed to deal with people speaking poorly of you. How does Paul see beyond the “envy and rivalry” of his critics?
9. How is your Joy these days? Rate your Joy on a scale of 1 to 10 (1=low & 10=high) What did you learn in this passage that can help move you towards Indestructible Joy?
10. Close by praying Paul’s prayer for the Philippians (Phil.1:9-11) for someone in the church.