

## Indestructible Joy – Week #2

### Philippians 1:18b-26

#### The Heart of a Joyful Man

1. Pastor Joel said that life is full of choices. Where you are is a direct result of the choices you have made up to this point in your life. In the end, all of these choices form together to create the person you are today and the life you live. Everything that happens to us in life is a result of our choices. What choices have you made that made who you are today?
2. The Apostle Paul chose to follow Jesus after he encountered Him on his way to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19 and retold by Paul in Acts 22:6-21 and Acts 26:12-18). Have you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? When and how did it happen?
3. Pastor said that “Paul’s indestructible joy stems from his perspective that his life is in the hands of our powerful God,” that God is Sovereign and in control, do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Read verse 18b that says, “I will rejoice” in the future. How does this challenge you? Paul wrote the book of the Philippians in prison; do you allow your trials to cause you to pout or to pray?
5. Paul recognizes the power of prayer and the sufficiency of Jesus Christ in his life (v. 19). Paul really believed that God uses the prayers of His people to provide strength to His servants. Paul was confident that God will deliver him from all difficult situations. Our circumstances may not be easy but we have the Spirit of God who is always with us. If we know that God is sovereign, that He is in control and He is with us and in us, how then should we live?
6. Pastor shared a movie about a woman who was diagnosed with cancer. During one of her appointments, she asked her doctor if he believe in God. The doctor replied, “No! I believed in what I can see and my professional training.” She then responded, “I envy those who believe in God because they can face death without fear.” Can you face death without fear? What is your outlook/perspective in dying?
7. Verse 21 declares, “**For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.**” Fill in the blank: Living is \_\_\_\_\_! What are you living for?
8. The term “Christian” was first used in Acts 11:26 and means “a little Christ.” It was originally a slur, coined by the world to ridicule and mock the early disciples in Antioch.

The early church embraced this title as badge of honor because they loved being identified with Christ, even by this derisive name. Are you proud to be called “a little Christ”? Christ came to this world to serve and not be served (Matt. 20:28), how do you serve Christ?

9. Paul’s life exemplifies a servant attitude, which is committed to ministering to others. Paul’s joy is the result of growing closer to the Lord Jesus Christ. True joy is found in knowing and living out the body of truth recorded in the Scripture. The truth of the word is the instrument used by God to bring out Christ-likeness. Do you regularly read your Bible?
  
10. Pastor Joel said that sailors have a saying that says, “You cannot adjust or change the wind, but you can adjust the sails.” What does this statement mean to you? Are you insatiably consumed with Jesus? Is Jesus enough for you? Do you believe or declare that there’s nothing that our God can do?
  
11. Life is full of choices, and the choices we make today can affect the circumstances of our life and other people’s lives, both now and in the future. All of us have choices to make, to either live for Christ and for the glory of His name or live according to our own standards. The choice is ours. Who will you live for? And who will you die for? I don’t know what circumstance you are in right now, but God knows. Will you trust Him?
  
12. Close in prayer after sharing prayer requests.