

PASTOR TOM'S FAREWELL
GRATITUDE AND
SERMON JOURNAL

AXIOMS

April 25 - May 29, 2022

PHILIPPIANS

May 30 - July 31, 2022

Name: _____

Dana and I were blessed to start out in Vici/Lenora. They taught me so much in those two years. Sallisaw was where Joshua (named after the Biblical character) and Jessee (named after a woman in the Sallisaw Church) were born. Five years later, we moved to Sunny Lane in Del City and Jeffrey was the third arrow in our quiver. Seven years later we came to Asbury. We have loved ministry in all our settings. We have been blessed to follow the 29-year service of Bill and Jayne Mason. I do not need a book about how to help Andrew and Elaine Forrest succeed; I will do what Bill did for me.

"Different is Good!" was my mantra when I came in 1993. The difference was not in the message, but in the messenger. Dana and I say "thank you" for the grace you have extended to us. We have shared mountains, valleys, and caves as we have served our Lord these 44 years and the 29 years with you at Asbury. We look forward to staying engaged with our Asbury community of faith just as Bill and Jayne blessed us with their presence. Thank you, Vici, Lenora, Sallisaw, Sunny Lane and Asbury. When I see the statue of Francis Asbury in our parking lot, I am grateful we could ride together with you.

As I write this final Gratitude and Sermon Journal, it seems fitting to look at some of my favorite axioms (in May). We will end our time in my favorite book of the Bible—Philippians. This is Paul's epistle of joy.

Tom

Scripture Readings

AXIOMS

SHOW ME YOUR FRIENDS, I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR FUTURE

- ☐ 4/25 1 Kings 12:1-15
- ☐ 4/26 Judges 16
- ☐ 4/27 Proverbs 1:8-19
- ☐ 4/28 Proverbs 13:20; 18:24;
1 Corinthians 15:33
- ☐ 4/29 Matthew 9:1-8
- ☐ 4/30 2 Timothy 2:14-19
- ☐ 5/1 1 Kings 12:1-15

LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS, RAISE YOUR COMMITMENT

- ☐ 5/2 Habakkuk 3:17-19
- ☐ 5/3 Job 13:15
- ☐ 5/4 Psalm 23:4
- ☐ 5/5 Luke 2:41-52
- ☐ 5/6 John 2:1-12
- ☐ 5/7 John 19:23-27
- ☐ 5/8 Habakkuk 3:17-19

MINISTRY IS SIMPLE: LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

- ☐ 5/9 Mark 12:28-34
- ☐ 5/10 Leviticus 19:1-18
- ☐ 5/11 Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- ☐ 5/12 Luke 10:25-37
- ☐ 5/13 Romans 13:8-10
- ☐ 5/14 Galatians 5:1-15
- ☐ 5/15 Mark 12:28-34

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

- ☐ 5/16 Acts 20:32-35
- ☐ 5/17 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- ☐ 5/18 Psalm 112
- ☐ 5/19 Luke 12:13-31
- ☐ 5/20 Luke 21:1-4
- ☐ 5/21 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- ☐ 5/22 Acts 20:32-35

TO BE HAPPY WE NEED THREE THINGS

- ☐ 5/23 1 Timothy 6:17-19
- ☐ 5/24 Joshua 22:1-6
- ☐ 5/25 Matthew 6:19-24
- ☐ 5/26 John 10:7-18
- ☐ 5/27 Romans 14:13-19
- ☐ 5/28 1 Peter 1:3-9
- ☐ 5/29 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Scripture Readings

PHILIPPIANS

THE AFFECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

- ☐ 5/30 Philippians 1:1-18a
- ☐ 5/31 Matthew 20:29-34
- ☐ 6/1 Luke 19:41-44
- ☐ 6/2 John 11:17-44
- ☐ 6/3 Acts 16:6-40
- ☐ 6/4 1 John 4:13-21
- ☐ 6/5 Philippians 1:1-18a

WE CAN WORK IT OUT

- ☐ 6/20 Philippians 2:12-30
- ☐ 6/21 Matthew 5:13-16
- ☐ 6/22 Ephesians 2:1-10
- ☐ 6/23 Ephesians 4:1-16
- ☐ 6/24 Colossians 1:9-14
- ☐ 6/25 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
- ☐ 6/26 Philippians 2:12-30

TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN

- ☐ 6/6 Philippians 1:18-30
- ☐ 6/7 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
- ☐ 6/8 2 Corinthians 5:1-10
- ☐ 6/9 1 Peter 2:13-25
- ☐ 6/10 1 John 1:1-4
- ☐ 6/11 3 John 2-4
- ☐ 6/12 Philippians 1:18b-30

THE SURPASSING WORTH

- ☐ 6/27 Philippians 3:1-11
- ☐ 6/28 Matthew 13:44-46
- ☐ 6/29 John 20:24-29
- ☐ 6/30 Colossians 1:15-20
- ☐ 7/1 Ephesians 1:15-23
- ☐ 7/2 Ephesians 3:7-13
- ☐ 7/3 Philippians 3:1-11

THE MIND OF CHRIST

- ☐ 6/13 Philippians 2:1-11
- ☐ 6/14 Isaiah 55:6-13
- ☐ 6/15 Romans 12:1-2
- ☐ 6/16 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- ☐ 6/17 1 Corinthians 2:6-13
- ☐ 6/18 1 Corinthians 2:14-16
- ☐ 6/19 Philippians 2:1-11

OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN

- ☐ 7/4 Philippians 3:12-21
- ☐ 7/5 Acts 21:27-40
- ☐ 7/6 Acts 22:22-29
- ☐ 7/7 Acts 23
- ☐ 7/8 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
- ☐ 7/9 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- ☐ 7/10 Philippians 3:12-21

Scripture Readings

PHILIPPIANS

DON'T LET YOUR JOY FACTOR SLIP

- ☐ 7/11 Philippians 4:1-9
- ☐ 7/12 Psalm 98
- ☐ 7/13 Proverbs 17:22
- ☐ 7/14 1 Thessalonians 5:16-20
- ☐ 7/15 Hebrews 12:1-2
- ☐ 7/16 James 1:2-4
- ☐ 7/17 Philippians 4:1-9

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM

- ☐ 7/18 Philippians 4:10-13
- ☐ 7/19 Acts 20:17-34
- ☐ 7/20 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
- ☐ 7/21 2 Corinthians 4
- ☐ 7/22 2 Corinthians 11:21-30
- ☐ 7/23 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- ☐ 7/24 Philippians 4:10-13

GOD WILL SUPPLY EVERY NEED

- ☐ 7/25 Philippians 4:14-23
- ☐ 7/26 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
- ☐ 7/27 2 Corinthians 8:16-24
- ☐ 7/28 2 Corinthians 9:1-8
- ☐ 7/29 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- ☐ 7/30 2 Timothy 3:10-17
- ☐ 7/31 Philippians 4:14-23

AXIOMS

April 25 - May 29, 2022

Axioms

Madison was standing in a long line at a tag agency. A senior couple began visiting with her and noticed her engagement ring. When Madison shared that she would soon be getting married, they asked if they could offer her one piece of advice. "Of course!" she replied. They said, "Lower your expectations and raise your commitment." Madison immediately asked, "Do you attend Asbury?" Joe and Jeanette Hooks said, "Yes!" Madison was delighted to tell her grandparents, Robert and Jean Ann Thompson, about this little encounter at the tag agency. The Thompsons happen to be close friends with the Hooks. All of them were familiar with this axiom, having heard it from the Asbury pulpit for many years.

An "axiom" is a worthy saying, like a proverb. A book I read years ago encouraged readers to write down their own axioms. I now have over 220 of them. My self-talk is often a collection of my axioms. Unfortunately, I do not have 220 Sundays to share all of them with you, but we will use the month of May to discuss five of my favorites. As a bonus, and at no extra charge, I am adding more axioms at the end of each week. I encourage you to start writing your own axioms, too.

AXIOMS

Monday, April 25, 2022

1 Kings 12:1-15



Graduation often marks a significant change in life. While we move ahead when we graduate, we also leave some things behind. Like flying on a trapeze—soaring in midair has an uncertain ending. Graduation puts us in a neutral zone of trying to figure out what will happen when we reach the other side.

Our family of origin holds the greatest influence on us when we are young. However, a shift in the most influential voices often occurs in our teen years. Those we hang out with and listen to shape us to be like them. Scholars study with other scholars. Athletes run with other athletes. Partiers hang out together. People of faith lean into that community.

In northern Israel, we visit the remnants of an altar built to worship a false god. The story from 1 Kings 12:1-15 is the exact illustration of this axiom: *Show me your friends, I'll show you your future.* Our friends, regardless of our age or position, exert tremendous influence on us. King Rehoboam trusted the wrong people. As President Reagan said about the Soviets, *"Trust, but verify."* Rehoboam did not consider the source. He listened to the wrong voices. Another axiom is: *Big doors swing on small hinges.* Rehoboam's decision had a devastating effect. Had he listened to wisdom, not folly, the north-south split of Israel and Judah might have been avoided.

Our theme this week is about **FRIENDSHIP**. Our daily scripture readings will revolve around this topic. The axiom is true for any age: *Show me your friends, I'll show you your future.*

[illegible]

My favorite book in 2022 has been “You’re Invited,” by Jon Levy. There is a wonderful quote in bold print on page 7. I will reference it on Sunday. If you listen to my voice, you will get the book.

Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Judges 16

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

SHOW ME YOUR FRIENDS, I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR FUTURE

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Proverbs 1:8-19

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

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SHOW ME YOUR FRIENDS, I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR FUTURE

Friday, April 29, 2022

Matthew 9:1-8

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Saturday, April 30, 2022
2 Timothy 2:14-19

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Sunday, May 1, 2022
1 Kings 12:1-15

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AXIOMS

More Axioms:

- You hang around the barbershop long enough—sooner or later you'll get a haircut. (Denzel Washington)
- You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending. (C.S. Lewis)
- Friendship is born the moment when someone says, "What? You too? I thought I was the only one..."
- As long as you're breathing it's never too late to do some good. (Maya Angelou)
- Humility is the essential virtue; hubris is the essential vice.
- A little self-awareness goes a long way.
- Bonds, both strong and weak, are important.

My Axioms:

Monday, May 2, 2022

Habakkuk 3:17-19




Habakkuk 3:17-19 is seldom a Mother's Day text, but it is also rare to hear a Mother's Day sermon on one of my favorite axioms. *Lower Your Expectations, Raise Your Commitment* has been the one piece of advice I share with couples getting married. This does not mean to lower our STANDARDS, just our expectations. Some expectations are legitimate and appropriate. However, the reality is that people often do not meet (or exceed) our expectations and that can cause conflict. Furthermore, if someone meets my expectation (which may be lofty and unrealistic); they do not get kudos—they are only doing what I think they should do. Ironically, our lofty expectations can crush gratitude.

As an Oral Roberts University graduate (two degrees, one wife), I always feel a bit chagrined when I use this axiom. The motto of ORU was "Expect A Miracle." Miracles are a positive aspect of our faith. While miracles happen, that is what they are—miraculous. They are rare. If we expect them to happen or feel entitled to them, we may set ourselves up for extreme disappointment. Many people are angry with God because life did not turn out as they expected. A friend in my ORU Doctor of Ministry class, Dr. Thomas Mathew, preached, "What Happens in Between Miracles?" I think Habakkuk 3:17-19 expresses it so well—I am committed to the Lord and joyful in Him regardless of whether things go my way or not.

Moms, the truth of the matter is your kids will not always make "straight As" or have straight teeth. They will misbehave, make bad choices, and may break your heart. Being a mom is one of the most difficult roles in all of life. Please know this: you do not have to be perfect. Your kids do not have to be perfect. You may not be the Proverbs 31 woman. You want your kids to succeed, but your identity is more than their performance. Being committed means to celebrate your wins, learn from your mistakes, grow and love together. Being committed means to stay calm, stay connected, stay the course, and above all else, to stay in Christ.

AXIOMS

[illegible]

 **APPLICATION:** Our theme this week is **COMMITMENT**. Let us give thanks for the women who have loved and nurtured us in many ways. Think of your mom, stepmom, mother-in-law, spouse, other women in your family, teachers, co-workers, fellow Asbury members, etc. How can you show appreciation and affection in ways that would bless them? We also know that some moms have not been sources of affection and strength. Could this be a day you forgive them and release any toxic emotions? Remember to let God's grace empower you on your journey of faith.

LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS, RAISE YOUR COMMITMENT

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Job 13:15

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Wednesday, May 4, 2022
Psalm 23:4

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

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LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS, RAISE YOUR COMMITMENT

Thursday, May 5, 2022

Luke 2:41-52

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Friday, May 6, 2022
John 2:1-12

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS, RAISE YOUR COMMITMENT

Saturday, May 7, 2022

John 19:23-27

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Sunday, May 8, 2022
Habakkuk 3:17-19

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More Axioms:

- Be a long-term thinker.
- If “ifs” and “buts” were candy and nuts—we’d all have a Merry Christmas.
- Adventures are never fun while you are having them. (“Voyage of the Dawn Treader”)
- The least committed makes the most demands.
- Treat people as adults. (Don’t patronize. give options.)
- Leaders eat last.
- Different is good.

My Axioms:

Monday, May 9, 2022

Mark 12:28-34



“The Paradox of Choice” is a concept that describes how we feel when we are overwhelmed by our number of choices.

There are 613 laws in the Old Testament. When someone asked Jesus which commandment was the most important, He did not have a “paradox of choice” moment. Despite having so many laws before Him, Jesus had a simple answer: love God and love people. Those laws are found in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy. We will read some of them on Monday and Tuesday this week.

“Overflow” is one of Pastor John Vick’s favorite words. When we have God’s love in us, that love will overflow into all we say and do. Our words and actions reflect the love of the Lord that is filling our hearts. When that happens, obeying the Lord’s commandments is not a burden. Instead, following Jesus will be the expression of His love in us.

In our readings this week, we will look at one of the two most beloved stories Jesus told. He responded to a lawyer’s question about “*who is my neighbor?*” by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan. The bottom line of Jesus is “*to show mercy.*” In Romans and Galatians, Paul illustrates love of neighbors by showing them mercy.

Ministry is simple: love God, love people. The chief characteristic of a Jesus follower is love.



APPLICATION: Our theme this week is **LOVE**. What helps you fall more in love with the Lord? Spending time praying through the Scriptures helps many of us love the Lord. Others find their hearts filled by music about Him. Receiving the sacrament of Communion is another means of God’s grace.

The flip side of the coin is sharing God’s love with others. How can you show mercy today? Every one of us has a role to play. Asbury has something unique to share on Sunday, May 15, to help us love our neighbors.

Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Leviticus 19:1-18

- [illegible]

Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Deuteronomy 6:1-9

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

MINISTRY IS SIMPLE: LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Luke 10:25-37

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Friday, May 13, 2022
Romans 13:8-10

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

MINISTRY IS SIMPLE: LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Galatians 5:1-15

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

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Sunday, May 15, 2022
Mark 12:28-34

[illegible]

More Axioms:

- Firm center, soft edges. ("Good Faith")
- Avoid having to back up. (Sign next to the driver on an airport shuttle bus.)
- Everyone is carrying something.
- First one to the counselor wins.
- All of life is repentance. (Martin Luther)
- If your heart is as my heart, lend me your hand. (John Wesley)

My Axioms:

Monday, May 16, 2022
Acts 20:32-35



An Israeli tour guide, David, claimed Jesus gave only eight Beatitudes but David knew there was a ninth: *Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be broken*. That makes perfect sense for a tour guide who has constant disruptions over things he cannot control. (I've added this to my axioms, too.) While Matthew recorded eight, Paul truly did give us Jesus' ninth Beatitude in Acts 20:35.

I have yet to meet anyone who said they intentionally want to live a miserable, rotten and cursed life. However, we often set ourselves up exactly for that if we follow the wrong script. Our culture tells us many false things. Believing that life is about grabbing instead of giving is easy to do. However, if I can give to others that means I have a surplus. If we can give, we are not dependent on another. If we can give, we have an abundance we can share. In Acts 20, the Apostle Paul is vulnerable in describing part of his struggles. I cannot imagine how difficult it was for him to live out his faith (which of course, ended in martyrdom).

Most of us can recall a time when we were struggling with something financial, emotional, relational or physical—then someone did something that gave us a boost. They said an encouraging word, gave us a gift, listened to us talk, changed a flat tire, gave up their seat, or held open a door. We can remember how their courtesy and kindness made us feel, whether it was a big deal or quite trivial. We can also recall doing that for others—and how that made us feel, too.

Our theme this week is **GENEROSITY**. Few of us find that generosity is our natural response because we are inherently selfish. Although it is not our natural inclination, we will find tremendous joy and fulfillment through acts of generosity. We do not have to be rich to be generous: abundance is a matter of the heart.

[illegible]

37

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

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Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Psalm 112

- [illegible]

Thursday, May 19, 2022
Luke 12:13-31

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

Friday, May 20, 2022

Luke 21:1-4

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Saturday, May 21, 2022
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Acts 20:32-35

Sermon Notes:

[illegible]

AXIOMS

More Axioms:

- There's never been a better time to be alive than now.
- Always begin with grace.
- Abundance not scarcity.
- Don't cash the check until you've written a thank you note. (Kathryn, Pastor Tom's mom)
- Begin with the end in mind. (Stephen Covey)
- Do what you can where you are with what you have. (Squire Bill Widener)
- Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not. (Dr. Suess)
- Blessed to be a blessing.

My Axioms:

TO BE HAPPY WE NEED THREE THINGS

Monday, May 23, 2022

1 Timothy 6:17-19




Jim Stovall is one of the most impressive people I have ever known. This Tulsa native started going blind when he was a high school student. He became completely blind when he was an ORU student. Jim told his father that being blind meant he would never have a normal life. His dad had a classic response: *"I never thought being normal was anything worth aspiring to."* Jim nearly collapsed into despair, but the Lord used the great Ray Charles to change Jim's life. He got a new script and refused to live in that cave. Instead, he became a world-famous author, screenwriter, entrepreneur and motivational speaker. Drive down 81st Street headed east, and you can see Jim Stovall's name on a building on the ORU campus. His generosity is helping future generations.

Jim gave an interview in his home, and I wrote down his words, *"We need three things in life to be happy..."* I will tell you this Sunday what this remarkable man said in that interview. His quote is now one of my favorite axioms. I have used it in a variety of applications, including memorial services.

The Apostle Paul wrote young Timothy, *"so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."* Paul knew that far too many people believed the accumulation of wealth was the meaning of life. When the actor, Jim Carrey, made a fortune, he observed: *"I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer."* While we need money to pay our bills, relationships make life meaningful. "Stuff" is not "truly life." We can live in a far more robust kingdom. Seniors will tell you how quickly life passes. That is why we should put our treasure in the right places.

[illegible]

 **APPLICATION:** Looking toward Memorial Day on Monday, May 30, our theme this week is to **REMEMBER** those who have gone before us and to honor their memories. Who do you know who has lost a loved one in the past year that you could contact? Simply telling someone who is grieving that we remember and miss their loved one, too, helps a lot. Asbury's support groups can help if you are struggling with grief. We want to remember the three things we need to be happy. We also use this time to offer kindness to those who are grieving the loss of a significant relationship. Furthermore, we need to remember that we can learn, grow and improve. Let us learn from these significant examples.

Tuesday, May 24, 2022
Joshua 22:1-6

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Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Matthew 6:19-24

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

TO BE HAPPY WE NEED THREE THINGS
Thursday, May 26, 2022
John 10:7-18

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Friday, May 27, 2022
Romans 14:13-19

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Saturday, May 28, 2022

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Sunday, May 29, 2022
1 Timothy 6:17-19

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More Axioms:

- It all goes back in the box. (Monopoly game pieces and people when they die.)
- The best of all, God is with us. (John Wesley's dying words)
- The end of this life is not the end of life.
- Every exit is also an entrance.
- Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened. (Dr. Suess)
- Heaven is much too serious a place for work. It will be all dance and play there. (C.S. Lewis)

My Axioms:

PHILIPPIANS

May 30 - July 31, 2022

Philippians

My favorite Bible passage is Ephesians 2:1-10. It explains God's grace in three parts:

1. Prevenient – “comes before” salvation. This is God's courtship of us even before we believe.
2. Justifying – “makes us right.” This is when we receive God's gift of salvation.
3. Sanctifying – the application of salvation. This is how we live it out.

Our life in Christ begins and ends with grace.

Like many, my favorite book in the Bible is Philippians. My final sermon series with you is “The Epistle of Joy.” Whereas it takes Paul the shortest time to say “hello” and the longest time to say “goodbye” to the churches in Galatia, it takes him a long time to say “hello” to the Philippians. He LOVES these people. They were the first church established in Europe. He obviously has a special place in his heart for these believers, even though he suffered while he was with them.

Paul writes to the Philippians about four essentials: unity, a theology of suffering, working out (not “for”) our salvation, and living out our mission to the world.

PHILIPPIANS

Here's your challenge: since Philippians is such a quotable book, memorize a verse from it each week.

- *For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. (1:8)*
- *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (1:21)*
- *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus... (2:5)*
- *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (2:12)*
- *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. (3:8)*
- *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (3:20)*
- *Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. (4:4)*
- *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (4:11-13)*
- *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (4:19)*

PHILIPPIANS

Monday, May 30, 2022

Philippians 1:1-18a



Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey (around A.D. 49-51). He wrote to them while he was in prison (at Caesarea Maritima, Ephesus, or Rome) between A.D. 55 and 62. Had he gone east, instead of west, things might have been very different for Christianity. Paul was a major player in the spread of our faith.

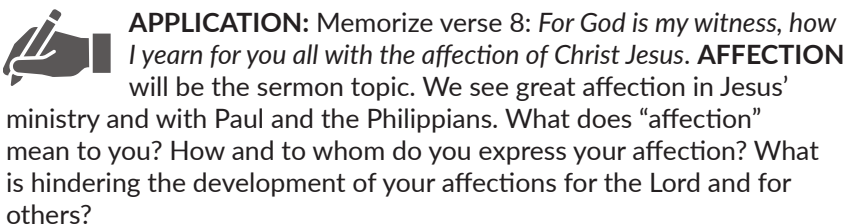
We'll read from Acts 16 this week. Three socio-economic classes of people in this chapter display the diversity of the gospel. Lydia was a wealthy woman. There was a slave girl possessed by evil. The Philippian jailor was a middle-class worker. Like Paul and all of us, these three had unique encounters with Christ.

Paul was competent but humble. Humility leads to grace, gratitude, peace and prayer. It recognizes the gifts of others (partnerships). Humility touches our emotions (affections). Paul had a message to share about Jesus. Paul was on a mission to help others follow Jesus.

Affection is a tender attachment that comes through experience. Often, that bond is developed during suffering and hardship. Paul was physically wounded when he was in Philippi. That trauma probably had something to do with why he developed such deep affection for them.

Paul also described the affection of Jesus. We constantly see His affection for others in the Gospels. He had compassion for the crowds who were lost and without a shepherd. He cared deeply about children, women, the sick, outcasts, and the rejects of His society. Our two favorite parables (The Good Samaritan and The Prodigal Son) each connected the word "compassion" to the "good guys" in the stories. When we know that people really care about us, we give them the benefit of the doubt. When we think they are just using us for their own objectives, we do not trust them and will not align with them. A heart of affection is a game changer. As John Wesley put it, *"If your heart is as my heart, lend me your hand."*

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



Tuesday, May 31, 2022
Matthew 20:29-34

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

THE AFFECTION OF JESUS CHRIST
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
Luke 19:41-44

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Thursday, June 2, 2022
John 11:17-44

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Friday, June 3, 2022
Acts 16:6-40

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PHILIPPIANS

Saturday, June 4, 2022

1 John 4:13-21

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

THE AFFECTION OF JESUS CHRIST
Sunday, June 5, 2022
Philippians 1:1-18a
Pentecost Sunday

Sermon Notes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PHILIPPIANS

Monday, June 6, 2022
Philippians 1:18-30

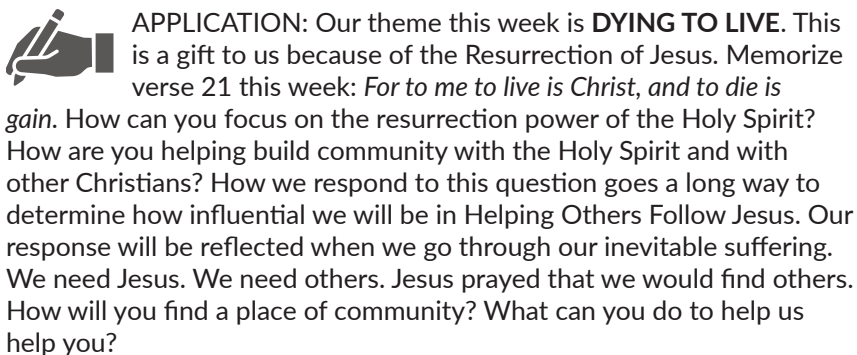


Paul was asking the same question as an English punk rock band, The Clash. Netflix used The Clash's 1981 song in a series called "Stranger Things." It had these words, "*Should I stay or should I go?*" Paul desired to be with the Lord, but he also knew there was still work for him to do. He was so convinced that the next life would be so much better that he could hardly wait to be there. This is the blessed hope for Christians. No matter how bad things get, followers of Jesus always have a future with hope. This is the gift of God through the Resurrection of Jesus.

Two contemporary philosophies existed when Paul wrote. The Stoics did not want to express emotion. "Grin and bear it" was their motto. Their opposites were the Epicureans. Their motto was "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." Neither philosophy embraced a future with hope. Dorothy Sayers, a friend of C.S. Lewis, wrote, "*...the sin that believes in nothing, cares for nothing, seeks to know nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing, and remains alive because there is nothing for which it will die.*" That philosophy is completely opposite of Paul.

Jesus said, "*The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*" (John 12:24-26)

Paul had great successes, but also endured an enormous amount of suffering. He shared two secrets about how he made it through his trials (in verse 19). They apply to us: The Holy Spirit fills us with His presence and coaches us. Other followers of Jesus help us, too. If a spiritual giant like Paul needed help, how much more do we need it?

[illegible]

Tuesday, June 7, 2022
1 Corinthians 1:26-31

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Wednesday, June 8, 2022
2 Corinthians 5:1-10

- [illegible]

Thursday, June 9, 2022
1 Peter 2:13-25

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN
Friday, June 10, 2022
1 John 1:1-4

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Saturday, June 11, 2022
3 John 2-4

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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

TO LIVE IS CHRIST, TO DIE IS GAIN
Sunday, June 12, 2022
Philippians 1:18b-30

Sermon Notes:

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Monday, June 13, 2022

Philippians 2:1-11



Can you imagine being around Jesus? His is the most brilliant, creative, imaginative, and beautiful mind of any person who has ever lived. After all, He is fully human AND FULLY GOD.

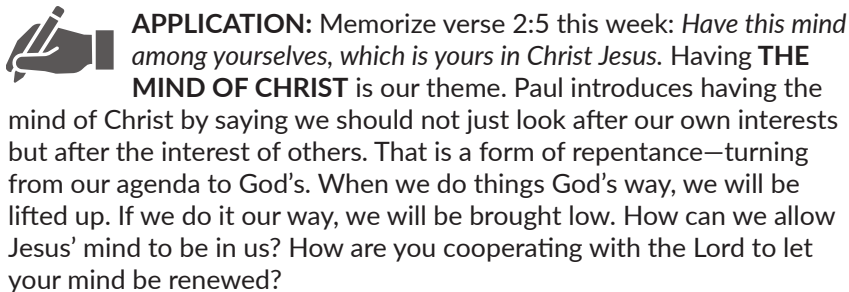
If we only considered His human qualities, there is still none like Him before or since, but He is so much more than merely human. Jesus Christ is the second Person in the godhead. The “Son of God” is not a lesser designation, like “God, Jr.” Jesus said, *“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”* (John 14:9)

Incredibly, Paul invites us to share in the mind of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul explains that Jesus’ mind was not the secular approach. Jesus came to reveal that the mindset of the Lord has a completely different value system than ours. The good news is that salvation is holistic—including the revelation of Jesus’ mind in us.

What do we mean when we talk about having the mind of Christ? Since Jesus loved to pray, so should we. Since Jesus knew scripture, so should we. Since Jesus loved to worship, so should we. Since He treasured friendships, so should we. Since Jesus served with a glad and generous heart, so should we. Since Jesus forgave those who hurt Him, so should we. Since Jesus had a mission and purpose, so should we. Since Jesus cared about lost people, so should we. Since Jesus had a heavenly focus, so should we. Our minds can be made new (Romans 12:2). We no longer have to be stuck. Old ways can be replaced with new ways. His mind can be in us, too. That fills us with tremendous hope, love, joy and peace. What a surpassing gift.

People can and do change. A friend recently told me about his friend whose addiction to alcohol was literally killing him. His friend had a major health incident and while he was in the hospital instantly lost all desire to drink. His immediate transformation has lasted for years. People can and do change. Our Celebrate Recovery ministry lives this out every Monday night. We believe that the Lord can work in any situation for transformation. That renewal of the mind is what happened to Paul. Acts 9 describes the dramatic story of his mind being made new.

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Tuesday, June 14, 2022
Isaiah 55:6-13

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Wednesday, June 15, 2022
Romans 12:1-2

- [illegible]

Thursday, June 16, 2022
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Friday, June 17, 2022
1 Corinthians 2:6-13

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Saturday, June 18, 2022
1 Corinthians 2:14-16

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THE MIND OF CHRIST

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Philippians 2:1-11

Sermon Notes:

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Monday, June 20, 2022

Philippians 2:12-30



It is natural to assume we are saved by our own good deeds. We learn as children we must not fail, lose, or fall short, or we face the consequences. We assume God grades on a curve, too, so we had better perform or we will face His rejection. We feel we are never quite good enough to please God and that He is always angry with us about something. On the other hand, some live as if it is our business to sin and God's business to forgive. Neither extreme promotes the mind of Christ.

In Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul uses the word grace to describe salvation. We do not deserve, earn, or merit God's love. Our good works (deeds, self-effort, or self-righteousness) are insufficient. We cannot do a thing to save ourselves. Instead, God's gracious actions in Jesus Christ save us. We are completely at God's mercy. Scripture is clear that the way of salvation has never been by promoting our own self-righteousness. However, we get to contribute to our salvation. When we abide in Christ, good things naturally follow. Salvation is not just something that happened one-time years ago—it is a continuous and ongoing action now. Birthing a baby is a wondrous thing. However, there is more than just a new birth. The baby must grow and become a functioning adult. Something is wrong when growth does not happen.

Paul says to *“work out your own salvation.”* We work it OUT, we do not work it IN. Grace is God's gift to us. We do not work FOR our salvation by striving or achievement. Salvation is not part of a “self-help” improvement course. We do not have to make promises to God that we will clean up our lives so we will be good enough for Him to save us. A drowning swimmer needs a life preserver, not swimming lessons. Working out our salvation is us cooperating with God's love. Because God's power has entered our lives, we can work it out in practical ways. We can become teammates and supporters of Jesus. We can allow God's grace to help us be salt and light in His world. Those who learn to work out their salvation are the ones who enjoy their faith the most.

We are not passive in our workout routine. We don't just watch the teacher, we engage. We are active partners. We are “response able.” Like the icing on a cake—it “adds to” the final outcome.

[illegible]

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Tuesday, June 21, 2022
Matthew 5:13-16

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Wednesday, June 22, 2022
Ephesians 2:1-10

- [illegible]

Thursday, June 23, 2022
Ephesians 4:1-16

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Friday, June 24, 2022
Colossians 1:9-14

- [illegible]

Saturday, June 25, 2022
2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

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Sermon Notes:

[illegible]

PHILIPPIANS
Monday, June 27, 2022
Philippians 3:1-11



This is a wonderful line in our memory verse: *the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*. “The surpassing worth.” Isn’t that beautiful? Nothing compares to it. There is no ONE or no THING who compares with Jesus. Paul had great accomplishments in his life, but in comparison with Jesus, they were “loss, rubbish,” and “dung.” What he thought had been so important was diminished in comparison with Jesus.

To watch a Major Leaguer hit a fastball (or even see it), see an NBA player dunk or shoot three-pointers, or admire a swimmer win gold, we probably will simply gawk at the feat. Ordinary folks cannot compete. We won’t go out and try this ourselves because we would fail. There is contrast, not comparison, with these extraordinary athletes. Jesus’ teaching and deeds are surpassed only by who He is—God in the flesh.

When we find something extraordinary, we want to hold on to it. We find a way to obtain what is valuable: like a treasure in a field or a pearl of great price. Jesus’ parable about this is our Tuesday reading.

The word, “knowing,” means nearness and intimacy. Paul knew Jesus in a personal way as his Savior and as his Lord. “Jesus Christ is Lord” (not Caesar, Herod, money, power, etc.). He is the ruler of my life. When Thomas met the resurrected Christ, he was stunned into worship: “My Lord and my God.” His “Oh My God!” moment is our appropriate response, too. When we worship the Lord, we put the right One first. As C.S. Lewis said, “*Aim at heaven and you get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.*”



APPLICATION: Memorize verse 3:8 this week: *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*. Our theme is **WORSHIP**. The word “worship” means “worthship” and is what we assign “worth” to. What we worship is what we hold dearest in our hearts. We have many good things to celebrate in life, but only one who deserves the ultimate: our worship. How is your worship going? What barriers do you have? What has more worth to you than being in worship every Sunday? That is really the starting point for working out our salvation.

THE SURPASSING WORTH
Tuesday, June 28, 2022
Matthew 13:44-46

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Wednesday, June 29, 2022
John 20:24-29

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THE SURPASSING WORTH

Thursday, June 30, 2022

Colossians 1:15-20

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Friday, July 1, 2022
Ephesians 1:15-23

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THE SURPASSING WORTH

Saturday, July 2, 2022

Ephesians 3:7-13

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Sermon Notes:

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OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN
Monday, July 4, 2022
Philippians 3:12-21



July 4 is our annual day to remember the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776. The founding of the United States of America is fascinating history. Against all odds, the patriots defeated numerous enemies and obstacles. Though the U.S.A. has never been perfect, I believe it is an honor to be a citizen of this great country. We have much to work through as a nation, but I would not want to trade my citizenship to live in another country. Furthermore, I believe this is the best time in the history of the world to be alive.

As a citizen of the world's greatest nation in his day, Paul leveraged his Roman citizenship for the sake of the gospel when he was arrested. He was on a mission for the Lord. He accomplished amazing things. No one would have blamed him if he had triumphed in his accomplishments, but his focus was forward-thinking. He was running a race and wanted to cross the finish line with a kick. He was not slowing down, quitting, or retiring. As a result, Paul endured tremendous suffering and eventual martyrdom. Yet, nearly 2,000 years later, we are still memorizing his words. THAT is influence.

Those who follow Jesus hold dual **CITIZENSHIP** (our theme this week). One is of human origin and lasts for as long as we live. The Lord gives us our second citizenship. That citizenship started when we first believed. It is the place where we go when our first citizenship ends. Because of our second citizenship, we are confident that we cannot lose.

Jesus not only came the first time, but we believe He will come again. While no one knows the day of His return, we eagerly await when our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes the second time and sets up His kingdom on the new earth.



APPLICATION: Our memory verse is 3:20: *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.* Paul was born a Roman citizen, but there is an even more important citizenship—the one in heaven. Three questions: First, why should we want to be citizens of heaven? Second, how do we become citizens there? Third, how are citizens supposed to live?

Tuesday, July 5, 2022
Acts 21:27-40

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Wednesday, July 6, 2022
Acts 22:22-29

- [illegible]

PHILIPPIANS

Thursday, July 7, 2022

Acts 23

- Rejoice in the Lord

- Write your prayers

- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN

Friday, July 8, 2022

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Saturday, July 9, 2022
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN
Sunday, July 10, 2022
Philippians 3:12-21

Sermon Notes:

[illegible]

Monday, July 11, 2022
Philippians 4:1-9



Paul uses the word “rejoice” eight times in Philippians. The word, “rejoice,” is in all four chapters. He uses “joy” an additional five times. Such frequent use of this word for Paul is unparalleled in his writings. Philippians is “The Epistle of Joy.”

Hebrews describes Jesus enduring the cross *“for the joy that was set before Him.”* James begins his wonderful little book by saying, *“Count it all joy, my brothers...”* You would think he would say something like “when everything is going your way” but he completely reverses the narrative. Jesus said in the Beatitudes that we are not blessed because of favorable circumstances, but because we are approved by God.

In 4:4, Paul says to rejoice in the Lord. He did not say rejoice in your circumstances, situations, feelings, experiences or successes, but to rejoice IN THE LORD. The secret of joy for a Christian is to be “in Christ” or to let Christ be in us. We can be joyful because we know that whatever else happens, Jesus wins. Since we are “in Christ,” we will be *“more than conquerors through him who loved us.”* The power of His Resurrection is what gives us confidence that all things will work together for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28).

Paul practiced joy, too. In Acts 16:25-26: *“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake...”* I would have been calling for a lawyer, complaining about how unfair and rude the Philippians were, praying for God to get me out—but Paul had a different mindset. Amid suffering, he was singing and praying. Having such mentors and examples is humbling. Few of us look at life this way. Galatians 5:22 transitions from our ways to the way of the Holy Spirit, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love...”* The first fruit of the Spirit after love is joy. When God’s love is in us, joy follows.

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APPLICATION: Memorize verse 4:4 this week: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice.* Paul repeated this twice.

JOY is our theme. How would you describe Paul's practical advice in Philippians 4:1-9 on how to be joyful? What serious problem does he address that so often sucks joy out of life? How is your joy factor? Do you tend to be more conflicted, complaining, combative, or joyously content? What can you do differently?

PHILIPPIANS

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Psalm 98

- Rejoice in the Lord

- Write your prayers

- Remember to give thanks

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Wednesday, July 13, 2022
Proverbs 17:22

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

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Thursday, July 14, 2022
1 Thessalonians 5:16-20

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Friday, July 15, 2022
Hebrews 12:1-2

- [illegible]

PHILIPPIANS

Saturday, July 16, 2022

James 1:2-4

- Rejoice in the Lord

- Write your prayers

- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

DON'T LET YOUR JOY FACTOR SLIP
Sunday, July 17, 2022
Philippians 4:1-9

Sermon Notes:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Monday, July 18, 2022
Philippians 4:10-13



This is one of my favorite passages in the entire Bible. I've quoted it since I was a teenager. We see Paul's gratitude and joy "*in the Lord*" for the response of his friends in Philippi. I'm not a tattoo guy but verse 11 (contentment) and verse 13 (I can do all things...) would meet my approval.

Johnny Cash sang, "*I've been everywhere, man.*" Paul could have said, "*I've suffered everywhere, man.*" His suffering starts in Acts 9 and doesn't end until he dies. He suffered in Damascus, Jerusalem, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth, Philippi and Ephesus. He was executed in Rome. As he wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:24-28: "*Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.*" Paul didn't exactly have it easy. His prayers didn't go as he requested when he asked the Lord to remove "the thorn" from him (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). However, he remained joyful. This week we read he learned the secret of being content.

Our theme of the week, **CONTENTMENT**, is an acquired trait. Contentment is not our natural state. There will always be things to complain about, but we can learn contentment, too. While Paul was content, he also lived with a godly ambition. He wanted to accomplish great things.



APPLICATION: Memorize verses 4:11-13 this week: *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

What has the Lord laid upon your heart that you should do? Living in a simpler way could save us many headaches and create more opportunities. Do we really NEED more, bigger and better? Will more stuff add quality and satisfaction or will it cause more anxiety and stress? Instead of consuming more, could we give more? Paul's secret was: *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.* "Him" is Jesus, of course. He is the secret. What do you learn from Paul in this passage both about contentment, and giving and receiving from others?

Tuesday, July 19, 2022
Acts 20:17-34

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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM
Wednesday, July 20, 2022
2 Corinthians 1:8-11

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Thursday, July 21, 2022
2 Corinthians 4

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Friday, July 22, 2022
2 Corinthians 11:21-30

- [illegible]

Saturday, July 23, 2022
1 Timothy 6:6-10

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Sunday, July 24, 2022
Philippians 4:10-13

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PHILIPPIANS

Monday, July 25, 2022
Philippians 4:14-23



Paul loved the Philippians because they were his partners when he was in need. They gave repeatedly and sacrificially. He explained the Lord would provide for their every need.

Paul and the Philippians loved each other. Like the Lord, Paul gave to them first, and then they reciprocated. That is what friends do. Friendship is give and take. When we love, we give. ALWAYS. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son....”* Our Lord’s generosity was for the benefit of all who would trust Him. Everlasting life comes as a gift. The generosity of the Philippians, combined with Paul’s labor, subsidized his work in nearby Thessalonica and Corinth (550 miles south).


Generosity has a way of returning to the giver. Solomon wrote, *“One gives freely yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”* (Proverbs 11:24-25)

The last thing Paul told the Philippians was about the grace of Jesus Christ. The New Testament presents Jesus as the source of all riches: *“...which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* (Colossians 2:2-3).

After 29 years, the time has come for me to hand over the leadership to Andrew Forrest. I’m certainly no Apostle Paul, but I can understand his feelings about loving a church. Asbury has been that place for Dana and me. I can also feel the joy of handing it over to a young “Timothy” in Andrew. Let us do all in our power to ensure that we will be Andrew and Elaine’s full and complete partners. Let’s seek unity and joy like Paul, Timothy, and the Philippians enjoyed. The Lord will provide. God supplies every need. Like Paul, the last thing I’d like to say is also about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be the glory for the great grace we have received. Like Paul, let’s share it. Let’s Help Others Follow Jesus.

GOD WILL SUPPLY EVERY NEED

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

 **APPLICATION:** Our memory verse this week is 4:19: *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.* Our theme is **GOD SUPPLIES**. We can grow our generosity in many ways. *“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”* (Galatians 6:7) What will you do to plant good seed by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

Tuesday, July 26, 2022
2 Corinthians 8:1-15

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Wednesday, July 27, 2022
2 Corinthians 8:16-24

- [illegible]

Thursday, July 28, 2022
2 Corinthians 9:1-8

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Friday, July 29, 2022
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

[illegible]

Saturday, July 30, 2022
2 Timothy 3:10-17

- Rejoice in the Lord
- Write your prayers
- Remember to give thanks

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Sermon Notes:

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“The best of all, God is with us.”
—John Wesley

