

b. The details of Paul's confidence (vv. 5-6)

- _____ —
- _____ —
- _____ —
- _____ —
- _____ —

2. _____ (vv. 7-11)

a. We can "_____ Christ" (vv. 8a, 10a).

b. We can "_____ Christ" (v. 8b).

c. We can be "_____ Christ" (vv. 9-11).

- _____ (v. 9) —
- _____ (v. 10a) —
- _____ (v. 10b) —
- _____ (v. 11) —

Application:

Book:	Philippians
Series:	Rejoice in the Lord!
Lesson 11:	Gospel Joy: "Rejoicing in the Lord"
Text:	Philippians 3:1-11
Date:	November 24, 2013
Next Lesson:	Philippians 3:12-21

INTRODUCTION

In this section (3:1-4:4), Paul adds a vital and foundational aspect to his call for us to rejoice—we should rejoice “in the Lord.” What does this mean? As we’re going to see from this passage, it means something very specific and simple. It is not merely putting on a happy face because we are, after all, Christians. It is not just trying to think positively about a situation because we have this religious optimism. It is not coping through a difficulty because we have this vague sense that “it will all work out in the end.” It is not even attempting to fuel our happiness by seeing the good in a situation. None of that is “rejoicing in the Lord.”

To “rejoice in the Lord” is to chose joy based on something much more foundational, much more personal, and much more reliable. “Rejoicing in the Lord” is certainly different from mere happiness which is temporally and circumstantially based. “Rejoicing in the Lord” is also much, much different from the above responses (i.e., trying to be happy, think positively, muster optimism, see the good, etc.), in that it is a logical, rational, reasonable response even in the midst of great suffering. Complementing that volitional response, it is also a supernatural product of God’s working in us “both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (2:12), for it is a “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22).

So, we’ve seen what “rejoicing in the Lord” is not, but what exactly is it—what does it mean to “rejoice in the Lord”? Our passage answers this in detail (cf. 3:1; 4:4). Here, we will see that “Paul connects rejoicing to a relationship...The sphere in which their joy exists is in their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.” “Rejoicing in the Lord,” then, is what we will call “gospel joy,” for in the accomplishment of the gospel, “the Lord” Jesus provided a

way for us to be restored to God, and in the announcement of the gospel, “the Lord” Jesus applied His work to you and me directly through faith and “brought us back to God” (1 Peter 3:18). Thus, the gospel is simply the summary of who “the Lord” is, what “the Lord” has said, and what “the Lord” has done. Truly, then, it is because of the gospel that we have ample cause to chose joy and that such a choice is reasonable and reliable.

“Rejoicing in the Lord” is safe—it is like a shields system. It doesn’t keep us from getting attacked, experiencing suffering, or being knocked around in life; but it does protect us from the discouragement, despair, and destruction of those pressures. This “joy (because it is ‘in the Lord’) is independent of adverse circumstances.” If our joy is in the gospel—that is, if we are “rejoicing in the Lord”—then, even as Paul (and Timothy and Epaphroditus) has modeled in this epistle, we may (and will) be pressured, but we can keep moving forward with purpose and pleasure.

In the rest of our passage, Paul gives more definition to this concept of “gospel joy.” He does so by way of a pointed warning in verses 2-3 and a personal testimony in verses 4-11. These two sections are like two sides of the same coin and teach us what it means to “rejoice in the Lord.”

**THE POINTED WARNING: GOSPEL JOY REPUDIATES
_____ THROUGH WORKS (vv. 2-3).**

1. False teachers (v. 2)

a. False teachers are “_____.”

b. False teachers are “_____.”

c. False teachers are “_____.”

2. True believers (v. 3)

a. True believers _____ by the Spirit of God.

b. True believers glory in _____.

c. True believers put no confidence in the _____.

Application:

**THE PERSONAL TESTIMONY: GOSPEL JOY RESTS IN A
_____ WITH CHRIST (vv. 4-11).**

1. _____ (vv. 4-6)

a. The nature of Paul’s confidence (v. 4)