

# **JOYFUL NO MATTER WHAT**

June 26, 2011

## **Philippians 1:12-26**

*"...And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice." Philippians 1:18b (NIV)*

### **ESSENTIALS FOR JOYFUL LIVING**

#### **1. I NEED GOD'S PERSPECTIVE TO LIVE FROM.**

**Paul's vision: He saw God working in his problems.**

*"Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel." vs. 12 (NIV)*

**When I face problems joyfully:**

- **It impresses unbelievers**
- **It encourages believers.**

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV)*

#### **2. I NEED GOD'S PRIORITIES TO LIVE BY.**

**Paul's Response to his critic:**

*"But what does it matter? THE IMPORTANT THING is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice." vs. 18 (NIV)*

*"In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success." Proverbs 3:6 (LB)*

#### **3. I NEED GOD'S POWER TO LIVE ON.**

**Paul's Source of strength:**

*"...Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed..." vs. 18b-20a (NIV)*

*"I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength."  
Philippians 4:13 (NIV)*

**Lesson: With God's power nothing can devastate me.**

#### **4. I NEED GOD'S PURPOSE TO LIVE FOR.**

##### **Paul's Reason for living:**

*"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." vs. 21 (NIV)*

*"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it, but one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)*

*"For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_"*