

## Ministry's Joy – Part Two

Philippians 1:19-21

Series: Joy and Gratitude in Christ

### 1. Introduction

- a. Last week we reviewed the two out of the four principles that make for a ministry's joy
  - i. Joy in spite of trouble—as long as Christ's cause progressed
  - ii. Joy in spite of detractors—as long as Christ's name is proclaimed.
- b. Today we will explore third one and we will culminate next week with the last one.
  - i. The third is, Joy in spite of death—as long as the Lord is glorified.
- c. Paul was fully confident that despite his negative circumstances, the Lord's cause would triumph. Therefore, he could face death without fear. In the following verses, Paul mentions five realities on which this type of confidence is based:

### 2. Verse 19a – Confidence in the Precepts of the Lord.

- a. “For I know...that this will turn out for my deliverance
  - i. GK—*oida*—know means to know something with certainty, absolute conviction
  - ii. Paul knew that the deliverance of God was at hand and that either through death or life, God would one day vindicate him.
    1. **Romans 8:28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
  - iii. Deliverance in Greek—*sōtēria*—salvation—
    1. Paul is referring to his deliverance from sin and death through faith in Jesus Christ. He is confidence in his eternal security in Christ.
    2. **Job 19:25-26** For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. (26) And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,

### 3. Verse 19b – Confidence in the Prayers of the Saints

- a. that through your prayers...
  - i. Prayer is meaningful and has a purpose in God.

1. The charge cannot be levied that since God is sovereign, there is no need for prayer. On the contrary, because God is sovereign, we must be even the more diligent to pray. We are stirred by the Spirit to pray rightfully for every situation.
  - ii. **Romans 8:26-27** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (27) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
  
4. Verse 19c – Confidence in the provision of the Spirit
  - a. ...and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ...
    - i. Prayer of man must be helped along by the Spirit of God. If God the Holy Spirit does not intercede, or help, our prayer then become meaningless.
    - ii. This is why it is imperative to walk rightly before our God and not grieve the Spirit of God; lest our prayers be hindered.
  
5. Verse 20a – Confidence in the promise of Christ
  - a. ...as it is my eager expectation and hope...
    - i. The implicit idea is that Paul's expectation and hope were grounded in the Lord's promise, not in the apostle's wishful thinking.
  - b. ...that I will not be at all ashamed,
    - i. Paul was certain that he would never truly be put to shame, whether before Caesars, the world, or the church.
  - c. ...but that with full courage now as always...
    - i. This is the courage that comes from the Lord. It is not naturally ours.
    - ii. Always – in every situation.
  - d. ...Christ will be honored in my body,
    - i. **Romans 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
  
6. Verses 20b-21 – Confidence in the Plan of God
  - a. ...whether by life or by death.”

- i. Paul was not certain what God’s plan was for him, whether there was death or life awaiting him. Paul would continue to serve and exalt Jesus through his life and ministry or through the final exaltation of death. Either way, the Lord’s will would be done; His plan would be fully accomplished.
  - ii. **Acts 21:13** Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
- b. “For to me to live is Christ,
  - i. This phrase contains no verbs in the Greek, it reads: to live Christ, to die gain.
  - ii. Paul knew that living was Christ.
- c. ...and to die is gain.”
  - i. He also knew that dying would be gain because then he would be in God’s presence, able to worship and serve Him in holy perfection.
- d. John R. W. Stott said this about this last verse, “The person and work of Christ are the foundation rock upon which the Christian religion is built...Take Christ from Christianity, and you disembowel it; there is practically nothing left. Christ is the centre of Christianity; all else is circumference.”

7. Benediction –

- a. **2 Corinthians 5:1-4** For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, (3) if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. (4) For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened--not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.