



A Scandalous Joy: The Practice of Joy | Philippians 1:1-11

Philippians 1:1-11

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:
² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

What can bring true and lasting joy?

[“What’s the point?” meme]

“...We are arguably capitalism’s greatest success story...We are also very unhappy...One key protective factor that has been lost is spirituality. “Not necessarily religiosity but where you have a sense of belonging, a sense of meaning, a sense of purpose. In other

words, you feel part of something bigger than you,” [Prof Carr-Gregg] says.”—Jed Smith, *‘Prozac Generation’: Dark truth about life in ‘Lucky Country’*

Psalm 4:7

⁷You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

2 Corinthians 11:24-28

²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ 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; ²⁶ 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; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

Philippians 11:11-12

...for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² 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.

Perspective

Philippians 1:1-2

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

“We are all starved for the glory of God, not self. No one goes to the Grand Canyon to increase self-esteem. Why do we go? Because there is greater healing for the soul in beholding splendor than there is in beholding self.” -John Piper, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*

Practice

Philippians 1:3-4

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

“Neurobiologist have shown that while most brain development stops sometime in childhood, the brain’s “joy center”—located and observable in the right orbital

prefrontal cortex—is the only part of the brain that never loses its capacity to grow.” - Jonathan Grant

Praise

Philippians 1:5-8

⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Petition

Philippians 1:9-11

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.