WHITE HOT

Context

It seems like every commentary on Philippians includes the word joy in describing this letter written by Paul. This is done because of its obvious emphasis on joy. Personally, I'm thankful for this emphasis. It's timely in my own life and I believe timely for all of us living in a world that has multiple ways of stealing our joy. Paul, who wrote this letter, can speak to this matter of joy because he faced some of life's greatest joy stealers and yet he was filled with joy.

This sermon series will discover what it was that gave and sustained the Paul's joy. What we learn will guide us in the right direction toward joy. Most important, it points us to an all out life of surrender to Christ.

Questions for Study

1. What have you experienced recently that has the potential of taking the joy out of your life?

2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement, and why?

   "If I'm convinced that the difference between whether I experience joy or don't experience joy is dependent on my circumstances or how other people treat me, it's very likely that I'll never be a joyful person. But, if I believe it's really about my attitude…my perspective…how I choose to respond to what life gives me, it's then that I'll experience joy."

3. What's significant about Paul's description of himself and Timothy in verse one? What does this say about his perspective on life?

4. We learn who this letter was written to in verse one. Read Acts 16 to find out how the church in Philippi began. Write down what you learn.

5. Paul's in a Roman prison as he writes this letter to the Philippians. See if you can discover from the book of Acts how he ended up in a Roman prison.

6. Paul's in prison and yet we discover in these first eleven verses of his letter to the Philippians that he's thanking God and praying with joy. Why?

7. How is Paul's prayer for the Philippians connected to the joy he's experiencing in his life and that they too can experience?