



9. Happiness in Christ,
not Circumstances
Philippians 1:12-18

- What makes you tick? What happens when your hopes don't happen?
- 1. Ground your happiness in Christ, not your circumstances**
- Paul: nearly lynched, unjustly imprisoned, slandered by Christians
- His response? v18 – “I rejoice” How?
 - a) Live for Christ’s glory not your comfort/reputation etc**
 - v12, 18, 20 – Paul cares most for Christ’s cause not his own
 - Paul grasped that our lives aren’t to be about us, but about God
 - To grasp this you need to have experienced that Christ didn’t live first for his own comfort or reputation, but yours
 - A Christian sees what Christ has done and wants people to know
 - b) See every circumstance as an opportunity to bring Christ glory**
 - Didn’t grumble or become focused on immediate task
 - Paul sees his prison as a pulpit, his chains as communication cords
 - How else could God get the gospel to the Roman legions?
 - Challenge: Will we see where God has placed us, or how God has made us as the canvas on which he paints his masterpiece?
- 2. Happiness in Christ brings fruitful joy in our circumstances**
- 4 things happen when Christians make Christ their joy:
 - a) The lost are reached**
 - “it has become clear throughout the palace guard” v13
 - The Christian is to live in such a way that everyone can see that nothing matters more than Jesus
 - When we do, people come to trust Jesus for themselves
 - b) Christians are encouraged**
 - “most of my brothers have been encouraged...” v14
 - Others read the truths of the gospel in our lives and are spurred on
 - c) Other Christians are seen as brothers, despite differences**
 - “What does it matter... Christ is being preached” v18
 - v15-17: Genuine Christians preaching with wrong motives
 - Paul more focused on the gospel than building his own ‘kingdom’
 - Focusing on Christ’s kingdom lets us rejoice in other Christians
 - d) Help in hard circumstances**
 - “in chains... I continue to rejoice” v13,18
 - Whatever our chains are, focusing on Christ and his agenda gives a purpose to everything & loosens our grasp on other things
 - We can trust Christ’s purposes even when we don’t yet understand



Sunday 20th September 09
n e w l i f e f e l l o w s h i p
SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING
www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Notices

- Sun Evening service at Mark & Judith’s 8pm
- Mon 22nd Synod day of prayer @ Limavady
10am (Coffee) 10.30am start. 2.40pm Finish
- Tues 23rd Bible Study at @ Stewart & Jean’s 8pm
- Sat 26th Presbytery Youth Event - Volleyball tournament at Bready 8pm
- Sun 27th Services for next three weeks (27th, 4th, 11th) will be held in Trinity Hall, just off the Cathedral carpark due to renovations in the Day Centre
Mark will be preaching in our Limavady congregation on 27th
Service here will be taken by Mr Joel Loughridge
- Fri 9th Fellowship food and games evening

getting to know the
WIDER CHURCH



STRANORLAR

Presbytery: Western
Pastor: Stephen Wright - married to Joanne, Son - Alec
Attendance: Both places - over 20 people

Around 15 attend their youth group each week.
This summer they gave out the 4you magazine.
They are currently studying the book of Revelation.



CONVOY

Prayer points:

That God will use His Word preached to make us more like Jesus.
That many in the congregations would attend the Bible Study
For safety for for all who attend the parent and toddlers group.
Pray that God would help the ladies at the parents & toddlers group as they talk about spiritual things.

Sunday 4th - Phillipians 1:19-26
Opening Psalm: 106:7-12

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
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