

Philippians

May 7, 2023

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ online ministry. This week's message is titled Philippians. The scripture reading is Philippians 3:10 to 12. Thank you to Earl, Paul, Janet and Don for being involved in the video. We'd like to wish happy birthday to Kathy, Joanne, Ruth, Mary and Dorothy.

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer

Good morning. Wish to welcome everyone here and a beautiful day. We have some announcements to begin with. Plant Sale, the Lincoln Garden Club and it's cash only and the date on that is Saturday, May 6th. South Service Road in Vineland. Rock and roll at the diner, a night of fifties, sixties music raising some money for the Great Lakes Parent Council and cash only \$10. And you can see the 4 to 12, \$5, etc. Great Lakes beginning at 5:30 p.m. May six. We're starting to plan as to whether Wednesday evenings would be something that the congregation wants to bring back. And so there is a survey in your mailbox, and if you could please complete that, give it to the elders, you can put it in our mailboxes. That would be fine. One further announcement is that we continue to pray for the health of Dianne's neighbor, neighbor, Rene, and remember her.

So anyway, let's pray. [cough] Our father. We thank you for this opportunity being together this morning as your children, we pray that you will help us to focus on the things that we participate in this morning, the singing of songs that point our minds towards you and the sacrifice of Jesus. As, as Don brings us a message this morning, we pray that you will help us to find application in our own lives and help us to use the message and the encouragement that we receive from one another this morning as we go forth this week, we pray that you will bless us to this end in this hour, in Jesus name, amen.

Communion

Hello. Some of you know I spent eight years out West where it's still winter. I just noticed that they had a 12 inches dumped on them recently. So I can complain about our winter. Sure, but it's wonderful. It's really wonderful. One of the things that we did out there was which was new to me, we partnered with a local church in Wawota, and we had good Friday services that we did at Moose Mountain. And it was a growing experience for us because you may or may not know in our tradition we don't tend to have Good Friday services. Some do here, but and one of the things that the other church did was they had communion at the Good Friday Service. Again, a growth experience for us that wasn't part of the way we normally did things. But one of the things that was a growing experience for me personally was working with the other minister. The message we delivered, he was big on saying, Well, Good Friday is for the cross, Easter Sunday is for the resurrection. So on Good Friday we talked about the cross. We don't go to the resurrection. That's Easter Sunday. That was a growing experience for me, right? Sitting down and writing a message and going, Huh, I really want to jump to Sunday. It's really convenient to jump to Sunday. And it forced me to think about the sacrifice on the cross in a new way and in a way that helped it stand on its own.

So one of the things that I discovered is that there is love, beauty and even victory in the sacrifice on the cross, the idea of sacrifice for others as well, established in the movies and TV shows. But the thing that makes it surprising in this case, I think, is primarily two things. Jesus went to the cross before there

was any guarantee anyone would be saved. So in the movies you've got the superhero, blah, blah, blah. He's saving this group of people there, right there. They're definitely going to be saved in this case. Jesus went to the cross not because there was a group of people staying there that he knew 100% would be saved by this action. He rather went to the cross so that we could have a choice to be saved, that we could choose that option. The sacrifice was made so that we might be able to hear the gospel. The gospel wouldn't exist without the sacrifice. Our understanding of being a potentially a part of God's family wouldn't exist without the sacrifice.

The other thing that makes it surprising to me is the sacrifice was made for me personally. It's also made for you. It's also made for everyone living in all of time. But it's also made for me personally. I was talking with somebody the other day some of the ways in which it's hard for us humans to understand and the divine ness of God and the ways, the things that are true, that we just don't have an ability to comprehend. And one of them, I think, is the idea that God can personally, individually care about every single human being in all of time to the same level. That's just impossible for us humans to do, but God can. And so that sacrifice was made targeted at me. Paul Moore And he cares about me. Paul Moore For Jesus to go to the cross, not for the whole world as a collective, although that is also true, but also for me individually. And that to me is surprising about that fact is that the cross was God's love to me and, I would argue, to you, shines the most through without it. I am condemned in my sins. I have no hope, but with it I am a child of God and I'm included in this house, but only if I say yes to the choice that Jesus gave me on that cross.

So today, as we partake of the emblems that help us remind us of that cross and the sacrifice that was made there, I would encourage you to think about the sacrifice that was made, the love that shines through, and hopefully prayerfully. And I would argue I beg of you to make that choice that the victory that comes to your life through it. Pray with me, dear Lord, thank you for all you've given us and all You've blessed us with. Thank you for this day. Thank you for this time. We are blessed to have life to have every second we are blessed even more to be children of yours. To have life abundantly through you, Lord, as we protect of these emblems that help us to be reminded of the sacrifice that your son made, help us to do so in a worthy manner, help us to do so thoughtfully with our minds and our hearts open to you, in Jesus' name, amen.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:10-12

Our reading this morning is from Philippians chapter three, verses 10 to 12: I want to know Christ. Yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. And so somehow attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all of this. I have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that, for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Sermon

Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much for being with us today. I have the distinct honor, privilege and pleasure of sharing one of the most optimistic books in the entire Bible, and that is the book of Philippians. The word joy is listed 16 times in this very brief book. So it's a book of really staying close to God. In fact, when Paul writes to the church at Corinth, he says, For we are God's fellow

workers, we are God's field, we are God's building. And Paul, when he writes to the church at Philippi, is pretty much saying the same thing, that we are all anointed with the oil of joy. And so it's a very brief book, some four chapters. And I'd like you to just follow along with me if you want. If you have a Bible, you might just want to follow along in Philippians chapter one, in verse three. Again, very optimistic thoughts. Paul says this I thank my God every time I remember you. And I've often thought, even ourselves, some many of our family Christians have passed away over the years. How many of you still remember them and think of them? I think we all do. Every once in a while a comment will be made. Oh yeah. You will remember times being in their homes, enjoying conversations with one another, laughing with one another, knowing that we will be together again. And so Paul, on his journeys, he's never sure if he's going to make it to the next place. He's thrown in prison so many times, he just doesn't know really what's going to happen. But he said as long as it advances the gospel, I'm okay with it. Even if it means my life, I'm okay with it. And eventually it did take his life and he was okay with that away from the body present with the Lord.

So he says, I think, my God, every time I remember you in all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that all of us who began a good work in you will carry it out to completion. How many of us know that as long as we live, we're going to be faithful to Jesus raise of hands? You're in the church, so you have to raise your hand. It's one of those joys. It's a privilege. It's an honor that the very God who created Adam and Eve created us the God newest. Before we were born. He knew the exact time and places in which we would live. We give us. He gives us this life, even with challenges, even with troubles, to understand the joy we have in Christ Jesus. And then He says this in verse 12. Paul has been thrown into prison so many times, and he says, Now, I want you to know, brothers, that what's happened to me was really served the gospel to advance the gospel as a result has been come become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

So even the jailers who were told to throw Paul and Silas and other people into prison, they're witnessing it. Their understanding that this man, Paul or Silas, whoever, that they would give their life complete and totally and fully to Jesus no matter what, even if it meant their life. So in verse 14, it says, Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of God more courageously and fearlessly and He says, Some preach the gospel for rivalry, but others out of goodness. No worries. As long as the gospel is preached and so he says, yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know through your prayers and the help given by the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ, that what's happened to me will turn out for my own deliverance. And that doesn't necessarily mean that he's going to leave the jail. It might mean that if he dies, he's going to be with the Lord anyway, and if He's let out, He's going to preach Jesus anyway. Verse 20. I eagerly expect and hope that I will no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now, as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or death, for to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. That's the promise of God. Optimistic. Look at life over and over. Then He says, For me to live is Christ and to die is gain and then Paul says, I'm torn between the two--I desire to part from this earth and be with Christ, which is better by far, but it's more necessary for you that I remain in the body that I preach, that I encourage you, Paul says, convinced of all this. And I know that I will remain I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith. And that's important. As Christians, we want to continually grow and we want to continually grow with faith. And we want to continually grow with faith and joy. Joy is optimistic. Joy is contagious. Why are you so happy? Even though these negative things happened in your life? Because

God is with me. He knew the exact time and places I would live and I'm not giving up on him because he's not giving up on me. And I think all of us can say the same thing.

So Paul says, so that through my being with you again, joy in Christ, Jesus will overflow. He said, Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a worthy manner of the Gospel of Christ. Then whether I come and see you or only hear you in my absence, I will know that you're standing firm in one's spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the Gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. I think all of us know of preachers and members of churches in all parts of the world, where when you think of them, you smile, you just can't help it. These are people that have helped us. These are people who share optimistic thoughts. These are people who have great joy in the Lord, even though there have been many, many challenges. And we can think of them and we can be so grateful for them and so Philippians chapter two and some of you may remember this, but years ago at Great Lakes and I don't know if they still do this or not, there would be a memorization of the scripture, sometimes a lengthy scripture, and you would stand up in front of the whole audience that were there kind of knees knocking, and you would recite it. So you would memorize various scriptures, old or new. And by far Philippians chapter two was the one that was most used. Listen to these words. If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose, do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. And then he says, How is your attitude, your attitude should be the same as that of Somebody, help me, Christ, Jesus, your attitude. Food should be the same as Christ Jesus. Wow. And part of Jesus was joy, anointed with joy Jesus who being in very nature God did not consider equality with God, something to be grasped but made himself nothing. Taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and he became obedient to death, even death on the cross. God knew and Jesus knew what He was expected to do, but therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name. Listen that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow. Every knee should bow in heaven and on Earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Won't it be amazing that one day when we stand face to face with God, with Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and all of our loved ones that we will be saying all together, Christ is Lord to the glory of God, the Father just think, seeing God's face for the first time, think of the feelings of this. Wonder for God who created each one of us with His own nature. And if we've pulled away from that nature, God is always with open arms saying, Come on back to me, come on back to me every day, every time, one day, every day, one time confessing together Jesus is Lord. So I mean, what a marvelous book in the book of Philippians. And so in chapter two, in verse 12, he's again encouraging. He says, Therefore, my dear friends, as you've always obeyed, not just in my presence, but now much more in my absence, you need to continue to work out yourself with fear and trembling, for it's God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose. It's just a good memory to saying if you've if you've pulled away a little bit, if you've just kind of backed off a little bit, don't back off for too long because God will never back out on any of us, ever. We are His children. So he says these words, not always easy. Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you will shine like stars in the universe. And so he

goes and talks about other people in the book. He says in verse 19, he says, I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon enough. You, many of us know that Timothy and Paul had a great relationship and that he really became a teacher. Timothy from Paul. And there was this extraordinary every relationship. And so he says, I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I will also be cheered when I receive news about you. I don't have anybody else who, like you, who has a genuine interest in your welfare, a genuine interest in each other's welfare.

So chapter three of this book Finally Brothers and Sisters, he says, Rejoice. Of course, that's what he's going to say. But rejoice in the Lord with an exclamation point. It's no trouble for me to write the same things to you again and again as a safeguard for you. Don't get caught up in a trap verse to watch out for those dogs. Those people who do evil, those mutilations, ears of the flesh. Pretty strong words. But he says, for we who are their circumcision, we who worship by the spirit of the Lord and the glory is in Christ Jesus. And He put no confidence in our flesh. If anyone thinks He has reasons to put confidence and flesh and hears Paul is going to talk a little bit about this now. He said, if anyone thinks that he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, Paul says, I have more. He was he was absolutely perfect. And what he needed to do as he thought, circumcised. On the eighth day, the people of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin I, Hebrew of Hebrews in regard to law, I was a Pharisee. As for zeal, persecuting the church, as for legalistic righteousness, I was faultless. What a mess, how hard it is to be perfect. And that's what Paul was trying to do. And then finally he realized, God doesn't love me because I'm trying to be perfect. God loves me because He made me. And He just wants me to know that he knows that I love you too. It's true. It doesn't matter what years you lived in the first century or 2023. It's still true to this day. As for zeal, I do my very best. I try to do everything he says for the sake of Christ. And then he says, What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. Jesus, my Lord Jesus Christ, is each one of us, Lord, He is our Lord.

He loves us. He's given himself to us. He lives in us. I will never leave you. I will never forsake you, he says. So I want to know Christ in the power of his resurrection, Paul says in the fellowship of sharing with the sufferings. Oh, I don't know about you, but I do too. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection it when you close your eyes for the very last time and then you open them. You see the face of Jesus. I want to know that Christ and the power of His resurrection, His resurrection enables us to have resurrection and to obtain the resurrection from the dead, Paul says. And then he says, I haven't got there yet. Not that I've already obtained all this or already been made perfect. Now I press on to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of me. I want to love Him as much as He loves me, even though I can't. I'm going to do my best. I haven't obtained all of this, but one thing I do, he says, forgetting how I live before forgetting behind get all that stuff behind me. I strain toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God who is called me in all of us heavenward in Christ Jesus. Think about these things, he says. All of us who are mature should take such a view of these things. And if on some point you think differently, that's okay. Gonna make it clear to you even down the road. So join with others in following the example of Christ and myself, Paul says, and take note of those who live the pattern that we have. First, I've often told you and now say again with tears, there are people who are enemies of the Cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction. Their God small gee is their stomach, their glory is their shame, their mind is on earthly things, but our citizenship is in heaven.

I've often wondered traveling in several different places and you go into a foreign country, what's your citizenship? Heaven. I'm not sure they're going to let us in. You have your photo. You have your name

on it. I was citizenship Canadian, but really heaven. That's that's the mind of Christ. Our citizenship is in heaven. Who by the power that enables him to bring listen everything. Everything under his control. Watch. He will transform our lowly bodies. So they will be like Jesus glorious body. Can you imagine? And I want to say imagine. Think of it. These aren't just words. This is the promise of God through Jesus Christ. And Paul is helping us to remember all of that. It's a book that we should be reading over and over and over again. And so he says some really interesting things about all this. Think about all these good things for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I'm in. I know what it is to be in need. I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content, if in any, in every situation, whether being well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in what we can do all things through him who strengthens us. And then verse 19 and My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ, Jesus to our God in Father B glory, forever and ever in the book is almost over. But then He says, Remember, greet all the Christians you come across in Christ Jesus, the brothers who are with me, they're sending greetings. All the saints are sending greetings. I don't know what's happening in heaven right now, but I think there's a lot of greeting that's coming our way. We remember those loved ones who are now in heaven, and I think they remember us too. And that one day we will be together again. And everything. Everything will be made new. Amen.

Closing

Thank Don for his lesson this morning. Philippians certainly is an optimistic book. Anyway, I just I've thought about this for the last couple of months, but when Janet read this morning, I think of Dianne and Gloria and Barbara, these chronologically mature ladies among us. But I appreciate your reading of the scripture because it comes from within. You have internalized it over many years, and I personally appreciate that. And I think those listening to these ladies and others as they read to us, bring the Scripture more poignantly to my perspective because I understand that they they live what they're reading and I appreciate that. So I meant to say something earlier, but I'll collectively say it to you all. But of course, many good examples among us, and we appreciate faithfulness and ongoing service among each person here.

Let's pray our father. We thank you for this time together. We thank you that as Don has reminded us, the the need for us to live joyfully, to rejoice in you because of all you have done for us, especially in sending Jesus into this world that gives us hope not only in this life, but beyond this life. And we thank you for the power of the resurrection. And we thank you for the service that we can have towards you and thankfulness, living, rejoicing, lives and living. Thankfully, as we serve others, as you taught us to do, we pray that you will help us to this end. This week in Jesus name, amen.

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