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May 20 2018

**How Joy Happens**

Philippians 1:1-11

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Two Approaches in the quest for joy

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We should reset our approach and attitude to our faith so we can engage in the joy we are meant to experience, that…

1. **Joy happens when you know who you really are** (1:1-2).

* Not until you realize you were born a slave to sin can you fully appreciate the joy of being reborn *a slave to Christ* (1).
* Since you are a believer, *you are a saint*; not by self-effort or behaviour, but just because you have been called out by God.
* *At peace with God* because he chose to first rest his grace on you.

1. **Joy happens when you know what you have** (1:3-8).

* An *uncommon “communion* created by God” (Boice), unified, not by social or racial interests, but by a share in a common truth (4).
* Confidence in *God as finisher* of what he has started (5).
* Entirely certain that our rich fellowship will result in tangible *evidence of God’s grace* through you, whether the times are good and productive or difficult and lean (7,8).

1. **Joy happens when you know what you can be** (1:9-11).

* *Unbounded in love* shaped by Scriptural knowledge (9).
* *A Son-tested life* for maximizing best works to benefit others (10).
* *A righteous fruit tree* that nourishes everyone and brings glory and praise to God (11).

*Joy happens because Christ happened; who places us in sweet communion with one another.*