

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

Say It
Again

Lesson Twenty-Nine

Philippians

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Lesson Goal: To assist students in understanding Paul's repeated message.

Scriptures: Philippians 3:1

For Memory: "Rejoice in the Lord." Philippians 3:1a

Say It Again

Paul begins this new discussion with the word, "Finally." We shouldn't think of it as meaning that he is coming to the end of his letter. Actually, this is more like the middle of the letter and he does, in 4:8, say finally like he is coming to the end. So here, we need to think of it more like, "For the rest of it." He has been instructing them in Christian living, and now he is introducing a new lesson.

This third chapter of Philippians is one of the most significant of Paul's writings, as in it he sets fourth several important doctrinal statements (beliefs) for us to consider. He offers several challenges for Christians. In beautiful language, he builds on the idea that strong Christian belief is a normal outgrowth of great joy in Christ.*

It is most significant, then, that he is saying, again, but with emphasis, "rejoice!" Paul finds it of greatest importance to encourage the church at Philippi to be joyful. Remember the theme of all our study of Philippians is "Rejoice in the Lord!"

You may know someone who always see the downside...someone who, even when good things happen, looks for bad...someone for whom life is a pain and nothing can seem to change that. Those folks need to think about all the great things God has done and is doing in the world. That is what Paul is doing. It is also pretty easy to find people who suffer and have good reason to be down...discouraged. But, we find them joyful and telling anyone who will hear that there is great reason to rejoice!

Paul called them "brothers" again. He continued to emphasize the important message that they were his brothers and sisters in the Lord. He then challenged them to "rejoice in the Lord." Joy is better than happiness.

He said that he was repeating himself. It may be that he had written this to them previously, or this could have been one of the major themes he taught them while he was with them. He says that "it is no trouble" to repeat himself. When you are saying good things, things that build others up, things that encourage others to be strong as Christians, it should be no problem to continue to say those things as long as people will listen. Good teachers know that true knowledge comes from repetition.

The great, eternal, truth of Christianity never changes. Therefore, we must continue to say the same thing over and over. You know, there are some foods that you would

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be happy to eat every day. You can try many different foods, prepared in many different ways, but for good health, we are told that the basic foods are necessary. For instance bread and water are basic, everyday foods.

You can tell the Good News in creative ways, but the important thing is that the truth be told regularly. When it comes to the bread and water of our spiritual life, the Gospel, it should be shared over and over again.

Finally, Paul says that he is providing a “safeguard” for them. By telling them and then reminding them of the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus, he is giving them truth that will guard them. In chapter four, verse seven, Paul tells the Philippians that the peace of God will guard their hearts and minds “in Christ Jesus.” That peace is the basis of joy which comes from understanding and accepting by faith the Good News of Jesus.

*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.



Teaching Tips:

1. Begin your class session by asking students to share things in their life that make them happy. Depending on their age, they might bring up toys, friends, spouses, or work. Then tell them you want to talk about something that is better than happiness.
2. In Jesus, there is joy for His disciples. See Luke 2:10; John 15:11; 16:22; 17:13.
3. “Joy is a supernatural delight in God and God’s goodness. It is very different from happiness.” James M. Boice
4. Songs that emphasize God’s grace, joy in Christian living, Christian fellowship, and sharing the Good News are appropriate.
5. Pray with your students: Thank God for the joy He gives all those who believe in Jesus and ask Him to be the Lord of their life. Thank God for the fact that Christian joy cannot be destroyed, nor can anyone take it away from you, because our joy is “in the Lord.” When something is in the Lord, it cannot be tampered with.
6. We have great assurance of joy even in the most difficult of circumstances. Read Romans 8:35-39.

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Student Worksheet

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For Memory: “Rejoice in the Lord.” Philippians 3:1a

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=The _____ chapter of Philippians is one of the most significant of Paul’s writings, as in it he sets fourth several important doctrinal statements (_____) for us to consider. He offers several challenges for _____. In beautiful language, he builds on the idea that strong Christian belief is a normal outgrowth of great _____ in Christ.

=He then challenged them to “_____ in the Lord.” Joy is better than happiness.

=When you are saying _____ things, things that _____ others up, things that encourage others to be _____ as Christians, it should be no problem to continue to say those things as long as people will _____.

=The great, eternal, truth of Christianity never _____. Therefore, we must continue to say the same thing _____ and _____.

=You can tell the Good News in creative ways, but the important thing is that the _____ be told regularly. When it comes to the _____ and _____ of our spiritual life, the Gospel, it should be shared _____ and _____ again.

=In chapter four, verse seven, Paul tells the Philippians that the _____ of God will _____ their hearts and minds “in Christ Jesus.”

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer, and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.