

PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)

TITLE: Program 19 – The Tyranny of Things

THURSDAY

OPEN

Are things absolutely driving you crazy? Things to do, things to take care of, things to check up on, things to watch over, things to count, things to rearrange? Are you going crazy because of all the things in your life? And let me ask you another question: what place does serious study of the Word of God have in your life? And you say, “Kay, it’s all the things in my life that are keeping me from the Word.” We’ll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Things can rob you of your joy, because joy is really found in our relationship to Jesus Christ. And as we continue in our study of Philippians, chapter 3 what we see is that word things, as a key repeated word. Now if you’ve gotten your study guide and you’re studying the Bible and learning how to study the Bible for yourself as you download our study guide, then you know that one of the words that we had you mark was things. And I just

suggested that you put like an orange cloud around it. Well, this study guide is available to you my friend simply by going to www.preceptsforlife.com and there you can download the study guide on Philippians. You say, “But you’re in chapter 3.” Yes, we’re in chapter 3, but we have much yet to see. And not only that, but you can go back and pick up on anything that you have missed on Philippians, chapter 1 and Philippians, chapter 2. And as you do, you’ll see that we have been looking at Philippians from several different angles. But one of them are thieves that can rob us of our joy. And we saw that in chapter 1, that our imprisonment can rob us of our joy. We find ourselves caught or imprisoned in some situation or some relationship or maybe confined at home. And if Christ is not our life then that imprisonment can rob us of our joy. We saw in chapter 2 that people can rob us of our joy, that sometimes people aren’t the easiest people to get along with, and sometimes relationships are very tense. But if Christ is our mind, if we have this mind that is in us which was in Christ Jesus then people cannot rob us of our joy, because our mind is set on God’s will. Our mind is set as a servant mind so that we’re there to serve others and not to be served. Well when we come to chapter 3 and we mark the word things we see that things can rob us of our joy. Now what Paul does in Philippians, chapter 3, he warns them in the first two verses that they are to **“beware of ...dogs,”** that they are to **“beware of...evil workers,”** and they are to **“beware of the false circumcision.” (Philippians 3:2)** And if you want to know what that means, get your study guide or get the CD’s on this series and listen to it because then you’ll get it verse by verse. But then we come down to where Paul is saying, don’t put your confidence in the flesh. Don’t put your confidence in the things that you’ve accomplished. And he says, “Rather, you should have Christ as the goal in your life.” And what is going to keep you from having Christ as the goal in your life? Well listen to what he says in verse 7. **“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.” (Philippians 3:7)** So you want to mark the word things and here, what I would like you to do, is because we’re zeroing in on Paul, I

would like you to put a circle around reference to Paul. Now I know that you went through and if you did your homework and you marked all the way through, you color-coded every reference to Paul, because he's actually the author. Now the book opens up and it opens up with, **"Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 1:1a) And so really though it's Paul dictating the letter, including Timothy as his disciple in what he is saying. But now he is really zeroing in on himself and that pronoun I comes to the fore here. So I want you to circle it in a special way, because when we look at that I then I want you to think of yourself. So he says, **"...whatever things were gain to me."** (Philippians 3:7a) Now the things that were gain to him are all the things that he put confidence in the flesh in. It was the fact that he had been circumcised the eighth day, that he was the nation of Israel, he was the tribe of Benjamin. He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. I mean you couldn't get any better. **"...As to the Law [he was] a Pharisee. As to zeal [he was] a persecutor of the church. As to...righteousness, which [was of] the law [he was] found blameless."** (Philippians 3:5b-6) In other words, he kept that law. He kept every jot and every tittle or he tried. Now he didn't keep it all perfectly, but he said, ["When it came to the Law," he says, "Really I lived in such a way that I was blameless, but whatever things were gain to me, those were things that were important in my life at one time."] (Paraphrase, Philippians 3:7) What is important in your life beloved? Is it your house? Is it your career? Is it your car? Is it your possessions? Is it your jewels? Is it your wardrobe? Is it your furniture? Is it antiques? Or is it some kind of a collection? Or maybe it's what you've attained. Maybe it's your education. Maybe it's your status in the community. Maybe you belong to a country club, or maybe you belong to some sort of society and you have achieved some status. Well Paul says, **"Whatever things were gain to me...[I count it as loss and]...those things, I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ."** (Philippians 3:7) In other words, over here are things and here is Christ, and because I want Christ, because Christ is my goal I know that I can't have my mind on both of these. I can't have my mind on Christ

and my mind on things, so I'm counting all things, whatever they are as loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. He says, **"More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ...."** (Philippians 3:8a) Now I would underline knowing Christ in green or underline it in some way. He says, "This is the surpassing value, the thing that I value the most is knowing Jesus." Now he is not talking about a casual knowing of Jesus. He is not talking about do you know who Jesus is? O yes, I go to church, yeah. Well, tell me about Him. Well He was the Son of God and, and He lived on the earth and He did miracles and, and, and He died on a cross, and, and He was raised, or at least people believe that He was raised from the dead. Yeah, I, I know Christ. He's not talking about that. He's talking about knowing Him intimately. He's talking about having such a grasp on Jesus that when he walks through life he has a confidence in what he's doing because he knows that he is walking according to the Word of God. And so he goes on to say, **"I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,"** now watch, **"[for whom, Jesus,] for whom I..."** and you want to circle it again, **"...have suffered."** And I just take suffered and I just take a red pen and go like flames. He says, **"for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ."** (Philippians 3:8) Now that word rubbish is a nice translation for the word dung, d-u-n-g. In other words, manure. And I think it's important for us to understand the graphic picture that he's giving us here. He is saying, everything, everything in life apart from knowing Christ, in comparison is dung. It is just manure. It is just excrement. It is something that is to be eliminated. It is something that is not necessary. And this is his passion. I want to ask you a question. What is your passion? Do you have a passion for Christ like that, where you would count in regard everything as rubbish, as dung, as excrement, so that you might gain Christ? Now what does he mean that you might gain Christ? Is he talking about earning Christ? Is he talking about working hard and keeping the law and everything so that

you then can hope to have eternal life? I hope, I hope, I hope, I hope. No, that's not what he's talking about. He's talking about the fact of experiencing the depths of Jesus Christ. He's talking about knowing Him so intimately and understanding Him so well that you know what His view is on the various things that have to do with life. I remember when I did an interview for 60 Minutes. I said, "Okay, I want you to tell me what this program is about." And he says, "Well, it's simply to show the Christian support of Israel." And I said, "Okay, how many people do you think are going to be on this program?" So he named a list of other Christians. And so I said, "Now are you sure that this is the purpose of this program?" And they said "yes". Well they lied to me. They just absolutely lied to me, because they didn't really want to show the Christian support of Israel from a positive point of view. They wanted to show it from a negative point of view and then have others come in and really clean the Christians' plow, so to speak. And I remember I did about an hour and a half on tape, and everything that they asked me, I answered with scripture. And I would just say well this is what the Word of God has to say. And then in between we would have the dialogue. And the man that I dialogued is Jewish. And as we talked I asked him, "You know, haven't you read the Old Testament? Don't you know these passages?" And he says, "No, I don't read the Bible." And I said, "You know, as a Jew you ought to know what the Word of God has to say." And I was talking Old Testament. But I said, "You know, as a reporter you really need to know what the Word of God has to say." Well when I came on the program, I mean they made me look like an idiot. The way they cut it and the thing that they did, I mean they took it out of context. But my consolation was that when I did the program, whoever edited it heard truth, and the men cutting that program that day in that hotel room in Atlanta heard truth. And this is what he said when he introduced me. "Now here's a woman and she has an answer for everything." To gain Christ means that you so come to know Him through the scriptures that you do have an answer for everything. You see, God has given us in this book everything,

absolutely **“everything** [that pertains] **to life and godliness.” (2 Peter 1:3)**

God wants you and I to know Him. And when Jesus was with the two men on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection, it says that, [He opened the scriptures and explained to them all things concerning Himself.] (Luke 24:27) This is what it means, that I might know Him, that I might gain Christ. We’ll talk about it more right after the break.

PART TWO

Welcome back Beloved. Don’t you really, honestly, deep in your gut, deep down inside, don’t you want to know that you know how you’re supposed to live, that you know how to handle the situations of life, that you know what to do with the conflicts, that you know how to make it through the trials, that you know how to make it through the mayhem or the boredom or the pressure from the world to conform? Don’t you want to know that? Don’t you want to have a confidence so that as you live, as you raise your family, as you go about life, as you go through the different seasons of life, you know that you know that you know that you’re on the right track? And you so know and you’re so strong that the world cannot squeeze you into its mold. And see the world so desires to squeeze you into its mold. The world so desires to keep you away from the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the world desires that because they hate Him. And they hate Him because He’s light and because light dispels darkness. They hate Him because He is a bigot in a sense, because He says, **“I am the way and [I am] the truth and [I am] the life, and no one comes to the Father [except] by Me.” (John 14:6)** Well Paul says that everything in his life, everything that he has counted as gain he now counts as loss, because he wants to know Christ, because he wants to gain Christ. Now watch the way he expresses this. **“...So that I may gain Christ...,”** verse 9 of Philippians 3, **“and...be found in Him,”** in Christ, **“not having a righteousness of my own.”** And you want to circle my there. **“... derived from the Law....” (Philippians**

3:8-9a) Remember he had that righteousness of the Law. I mean he kept the letter. He did it all right. I mean at this point in time Jews were going through all sorts of ceremonies, cleansing their hands, keeping fingers together and keeping them clean in kind of ritual kind of affair to be righteous, to be right with God. But it was like Martin Luther, the more that he tried to be right with God, the more that he tried to keep the Law, the more that he tried to do everything that they said would make him holy, the more he saw his own unholiness. He saw his own unrighteousness. And what you see when you see Christ is you see that there is a righteousness to be found in Him. If you'll just think of it as a right way of living, a right way of thinking, a right value that you have on all of life, a right perspective. So he says, "[That I] **may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness, which comes from God....**" Now listen carefully, **"on the basis of faith."** (Philippians 3:9) Now what is faith? Faith is taking God at His word. If you go to the book of Hebrews chapter 11, and that's the faith chapter. And over and over and over again you'll see the word faith, faith, faith, by faith, by faith, by faith. And it opens up with a definition of faith. **"Now faith is the assurance,"** or it is the substance, **"...of things hoped for...."** Things that you're hoping for and you don't have them yet, but because you know them and understand them, they're as good as yours. **"Now faith is the [substance] of things hoped for, [and it is] the conviction of things not seen."** (Hebrews 11:1) For instance, I am fully convinced that Jesus Christ is going to come back down to earth, that He is going to rein on this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. I am absolutely convinced that when I die I'm absent from this body and I'm present with the Lord. I am absolutely convinced that this corruptible will put on incorruptible and this mortal will put on immortality and someday I will come back here and I will live on the face of this earth and I will rule and rein with Jesus Christ. Now you can tell me I'm crazy, but I want you to know I'm not. And I'm not because I understand the Word of God. And

because I understand the Word of God, and because I believe these truths, then I have a righteousness that is based on faith and I don't live my life the way the world lives it; I live it according to the standards of God, not to the moirés or the standards of our culture. So this is what he's talking about. So righteousness is a very important word in this passage. And we see a contrast. There's a righteousness of the Law. In other words, keeping I don't drink and I don't smoke and I don't go with girls that do, that kind of righteousness. You know, whatever you think makes you holy. And so it's the external things that you do; that's the righteousness of the Law, trying to please God in your own strength, versus the righteousness of God, which comes through faith. So it's a righteousness that comes through performance and it's a righteousness that comes through believing. The righteousness that comes through believing ends up in a manifested change in the way that you live. But that change comes not because you've gotten your act together, but that change is coming simply because you know that this is what God says, you know that this is what is true so you're going to live that way. Now in our study guide and remember you can download that at preceptsforlife.com. In our study guide we suggest that you mark the word righteousness. And so I just simply colored it blue. So I colored it in verse 6. I colored it in verse 7 and I colored the pronoun that in verse 7 because it refers to righteousness, in verse 9, excuse me. **"And [that I] may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that..."** That what? That righteousness, **"...which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith."** (Philippians 3:9) Now watch what he says. **"That I may know Him."** (Philippians 3:10a) So once again he's talking about knowing Christ. Now what's going to keep you from knowing Christ? See, what is keeping you from going deeper? There is so much that we have to learn in the Word of God, and yet we want all these frivolous other things around us, instead of paying the price to know the Word of God. What is it that keeps us from paying the price? Well, Beloved, it is the love of things. It is the demand of things. It is

the time that things take. It is the time that things consume. And you don't want that to happen to you so what I would suggest that you do before our next program is that you keep a running log for the next few days and you look at how much time you're spending in the Word of God studying the Word of God. I'm not talking about reading and having your three minutes a day. But I'm talking about getting to know the Word of God, studying it the way we're teaching you how to study it. So keep a log. Just write it down. Keep a pad beside your bed or keep it by a chair or wherever you're going to study the Bible, and just write down how much that you've spent each day for a week and then check yourself and add up that time. Then add up the number of hours in the day and subtract how many hours you need to sleep. And then look at the hours that you have left. What portion of your day do you give to the Lord? What portion of your time does He have? And how much television are you watching? How much sports are you playing? What are you doing with your time? Stop and evaluate it because some day, Beloved, you're going to give an account to the One that said we are to redeem the time, we are to buy it back. We're not to let things control our life, rather we are to control the things in our life that we might redeem the time, that we might buy it back, so that we might know Christ and that we might know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings so that we might gain Him, so that we might have that knowledge of how to live and how to handle every situation of life in the light of the Word of God, so that you and I might have a righteousness that comes by faith, because we know what God says and we're going to listen and we're going to obey and we're going to live accordingly.