

PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)

PROGRAM 8 (#912093)

WEEK 2 (#912319)

©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

a Production of

Precept Ministries International

P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218

1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

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 8 – Dying Is “Gain”?

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Are you looking for true joy, Beloved? I mean, genuine joy that will not go away. Do you know where it's found? It's found by being what God wants you to be. It's found by believing what you have in Christ, living in the light of it, and living that way in respect to others. People can rob you of your joy unless you live the way Christ wants you to live. We'll look at it today.

PART ONE

As Paul writes to the church at Philippi to the saints in Philippi with the overseers and the deacons, he has a strong affection of Christ within his heart for these people, because Christ has an affection for these people. Do you know that Christ loves you? Do you know that if nobody else on the face of this earth deems you valuable, that Christ does, that He loves you so much that He died for you, and that He wants you to know and experience the depth and the breadth and the height of His love, which is unfathomable?

But He wants you to plunge in and He wants you to experience it. And so, as His servant, Paul sits down to take a pen and to begin to inscribe the book of Philippians, the epistle, the letter to the Philippians on that parchment. Paul is evermore concerned about them. Now we have heard that he's in prison. We have heard that he is not complaining. We have heard that it is going out and furthering the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he's rejoicing because his desire is that Christ be exalted in his body, whether by life or by death. His desire is to be where God wants him to be. And what he's concluded is although to die and be with Christ would be better, that it is better for him to stay because he still has a work to do. You can know this, Beloved, by way of application, that if you're alive it's because God still has a purpose for your life. If you die then your purpose is over. You cannot die without God's permission. Do you know that? Do you understand that? Let me just show you a couple scriptures on this that I want you to see. I want you to go to Job chapter 14 and its verse 15, Job chapter 14 verse 15. And Job is just before the book of Psalms. And when you come to Job, he was a man that endured many, many trials and troubles. And yet in all of this God was teaching him about Himself. And when we come to Job chapter 14 it says this in verse 1: **“Man, who was born of woman, is short lived and full of turmoil. Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He...flees like a shadow and does not remain. Thou, God, does also open Thine eyes upon him and bring him into judgment with Thyself. Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one. Since his days are determined...,”** since man's days are determined, **“...the number of his months is with Thee and his limits Thou has set so that he cannot pass.” (Job 14:1-5)** In Psalm 139, verse 16, it says, [“You formed me in my mother's womb and You numbered my days when as yet there was not one of them.”] (PARAPHRASE Psalm 139:16) Your days are numbered, Beloved, and if you want joy then you have to live these numbered days for Jesus Christ, for the kingdom of God. God has to be the supreme love of your life, if you're really going to have to have joy.

And that's why Paul had joy in the midst of his imprisonment. He had joy because Christ was his life. **"For me to live is Christ...,**" he says, **"...and to die is gain."** (Philippians 1:21) So let's go back to Philippians chapter 1. He says, **"...If I live on in the flesh...,**" verse 22 **"...that will mean fruitful labor for me...."**(Philippians 1:22a) In other words, if I stay here and I don't die then this is going to be fruitful labor. In other words, I'm going to use my days for the kingdom of God, and it's going to bring forth fruit. He says, **"...And I do not know which to choose..."**(Philippians 1:22b) Because remember, to be with Christ is far better. To die is to gain. He says, **"But I am hard pressed between both directions having the desire to depart and to be with Christ...."**(Philippians 1:23a) He said I wanted to die. Now this is not a fatalistic, life is miserable; I can't stand it; it's horrible; I just want to die, I'm going to commit suicide; it's not that. He's saying I am so consumed with Christ that if I got a death sentence I would be so excited because I was going to see the love of my life face to face. He says that is much better. **"Yet to remain on in the flesh....,"** and I'm in verse 24, chapter 1, **"...is more necessary for your sake."** (Philippians 1:24) See, his primary love was Jesus. His second love was others. And where did Paul fall in? He fell in third. Now what does that spell? Jesus, others, and you. Doesn't that spell joy? And that's what Philippians is all about. In the first chapter the emphasis is on Jesus. For me to live is Christ. In the second chapter the emphasis is on others. It's on people. And this is what, he's making a segue that is going to take us into chapter 2. In chapter 3 of Philippians the emphasis is on himself. And the emphasis on himself is that he counts all things as loss for the excellencies of the knowledge of Jesus Christ for whom he suffered the loss of all things, and he counts them but dung that he might know Christ, that he might know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. And so he looks at himself and he says, **"I press on towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 3:14) That is joy. And what does that

bring? The fourth chapter of Philippians, it brings contentment. [“I have learned whatsoever state I’m in therewith to be content. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”] (PARAPHRASE Philippians 4:12-13) So this is why it’s an epistle of joy. The focus at first is on Jesus. Then the second focus in Philippians is on others. So now watch Paul’s attitude towards the others. He says, **“And to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.” (Philippians 1:24)** I’d rather go and be with Jesus, but I’m not thinking about myself; I’m thinking about others. And he goes on to say, **“And convinced of this....,”** convinced that it is more important for me to stay here and to minister to you and help you. He says, **“Convinced of this, I know that I shall remain, that I’m not going to die, and continue with you all....” (Philippians 1:25a)** Now why? I want you to see the why. Remember you’ve got to ask the five W’s and an H, who, what, when, where, why and how. And if you haven’t downloaded your study guide, go to our website preceptsforlife.com, spell it as one word, .com. Preceptsforlife.com and download absolutely free this study guide. So he says now here’s the why. He says, **“I know I shall remain and continue with you all....”** Why? **“...For your progress and joy in the faith.” (Philippians 1:25)** In other words, he wants them to have joy. If they’re going to have joy it’s going to be Jesus first. It’s going to be others second. And then it’s going to be them living this life of pressing on towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. So he goes on to say, So for the progress, **“...your progress and joy in the faith, so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.” (Philippians 1:25b-26)** Now he’s visited them twice and he wants to visit them a third time, and he’s convinced that this is going to happen, because this is why he’s staying on in the flesh. And they’re going to have a proud confidence in him because they look at their leader, they look at the man that brought them the gospel, they look at their father, so to speak, in the gospel, in the faith and they see hey, this man is genuine. This man is true. Do you know one of the things

that keeps me on the straight and narrow? It's the fact that if I went off the straight and narrow, what would it do to others? It's the thing that holds me when I'm not always happy or when things are not the way I would write them in my scenario of life. It's what holds me because God forbid that I should stumble and cause somebody else to stumble. God forbid that I should live in such a way that would be apart from Christ and others would say, well look at her, and look at the way she lives, and look at what she's done and she's been on radio, she's been on television, she's written books, she's this, she's that. God forbid that they would look at me and excuse sin in their lives. It's the love of Christ that constrains you. It's the love of Christ that keeps you in a marriage that's not everything that you want. It's the love of Christ that keeps you from accumulating more and more and more for yourself. It's the love of Christ that keeps you taking your monies and putting them where the gospel is going to go forth. It is the love of Christ that keeps you working and keeps you laboring when you're tired or when you want to take it easy or when you'd just like to retire. There's no retirement in the time of war. In Ecclesiastes 8:8 it tells us that there is a time when man is going to die and he can't keep himself alive. And it also says there is no retirement in the time of war. And so Paul is saying this. He says I want your proud confidence in me to abound more and more by my coming to you. Because listen, when Christians get together O the fellowship is so, so sweet. There are staff that I miss and I miss them dearly, and I love them dearly. I miss Bob and Dianne when they're overseas, in our Ambassador work, when they're in China, where they're in India, or when they're in Africa, or when they're in Australia, or where they're in one of the parts of the world that they're ministering in. I get lonely for them. I miss them. I love them. I miss Mia and Costel when they're in Eurasia and they're in Iran or Pakistan or all these different places. I miss them. I miss Tom when he's in Peru or when he's in Ecuador or when he's in Chile or these other places and when they come home and we get together it's such a

happy reunion. And I listen to them and I listen to what God has done and I listen to their lives of sacrifice and service on behalf of the Lord, and I sit there and I am so proud of them. And I so rejoice because of what has been accomplished as they have gone to these countries and as they have raised up nationals to teach them how to study the Bible inductively. And I thank you, Beloved. I thank you for your support of this program, for your support of this ministry, so that we can reach people that want to study the Bible but have no money to do so. Thank you so much. It's time for the break. I'll be right back.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Do you know how precious you are to me? Be you woman or be you man, you are precious. Do you know that Daniel was called precious? It said, "O man of high esteem." But it really read in the Hebrew, "O precious man." That's what you are. You know my desire for you is what Paul's desire was for those in Philippi. He was going to live for Christ and he wanted them to live for Christ. So he turns to them now and in verse 27 he says, **"Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...."**(Philippians 1:27a) Once again you want to mark the word gospel if you haven't done your homework, if you didn't download it, or if you haven't caught up with me, then you want to download it. And, and you say, but you're already through chapter 1. Yes I am, but you know what? You can go back and you can do chapter 1. You many have just joined the program. That's all right. We've got a lot yet to look at and you want to download it; it's absolutely free, preceptsforlife.com. And while you're there I just want you to know that we do need your support. I mean we desperately need your support. And as you support us then you free up monies for us to help overseas minister to these people. So it says, ["Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, whether I show up or don't

show up, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one Spirit.”]

(PARAPHRASE Philippians 1:27) Now when you read through the epistles in every epistle practically that Paul writes you’re going to see him say stand firm, stand firm, stand firm. You know its one thing to start; it’s another thing to stand firm. It’s another thing to continue in the faith. It’s another thing to finish well. So he says, “**...Whether I come or whether I remain absent, I want to hear one thing about you. I want to hear that you are standing firm.**” “You...,” plural, “**...are standing firm in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.**” (Philippians 1:27)

Now we have just come to a new word that is one of the key words in Philippians. Joy and rejoice is a key word and you know that if you’ve been doing the study and you mark it. But now we’re coming to the word mind. We’re coming to the word attitude. All right, and so what I do is put a big “A” over mind, because your mind and your attitude, your attitude is formed in your mind. So this is a key word. And you’re going to pick it up and you’re going to see how many times it is used in this book. And you know that your task in your homework was to read through all of Philippians, mark every reference to joy, put down how many times it was used. I’m not going to tell you. And then also to mark mind or attitude. So this is where you pick it up for the first time. He says, “I want to know that you’re standing firm.” Now watch the word one, “with one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.” Once again here’s the gospel. He wants you to walk worthy of the gospel. He wants you to strive for the faith of the gospel. In other words getting that gospel out that people might believe. And he says, “**In no way alarmed by your opponents....**,” “**In no way alarmed by your opponents....**” (Philippians 1:28a) Have you got that? Because your opponents are going to increase more and more as we come to the second coming of Jesus Christ. Things are going to get rougher. They’re going to get harder. In 2 Timothy, chapter 3 he talks about the last days. He talks about the character of men. He talks about silly women

always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth, being led captive by these men that sneak in and lead them astray. So we're living in these last days. And so you have to strive together for the faith of the gospel. And when you're knit together, when you're knit, when you're arm and arm with one another then you're stronger. You're stronger together as two than you are as one. And the Bible teaches that in Ecclesiastes. So he says, **"In no alarmed by your opponents – which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation to you...."** (Philippians 1:28) What does he mean? He means that when you're threatened with the gospel or when people try to dissuade you and you won't be dissuaded and they're saying listen, if you don't give up this belief then you're not going to go anywhere in politics; you're not going to go anywhere in this university; you're not going to go anywhere in this cooperation; you're not going to go anywhere in this life if you keep believing in Jesus and you keep talking about the gospel. You're not to be alarmed by them. Why? Because you know that you have absolute truth. You know that they're lost. You know that they're dying. You know that they're going to go to hell. You know that they're going to spend eternity in the lake of fire. And so nothing can deter you. So you're not to be alarmed by them. But listen, when you're not alarmed by them it is a sign to you of your salvation because you know that it's truth. And the fact that you're not alarmed and the fact that you're going to stand firm shows hey, I know that I've got truth. But it is a sign of destruction to them, because what they see, Beloved, is you cannot be deterred from your faith. If you cannot be deterred from your faith and they're threatening your life, they're threatening your welfare, they're threatening your future and you're not deterred. What is it that you have that is keeping you on that straight and narrow path no matter what it costs you? And so it becomes a sign of their destruction. Now watch what he says. **"It's a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you...."** (Philippians 1:28) And, it's a sign of destruction another way, because they will not believe,

because they're trying to dissuade you. And you've got to remember this, and Romans 1 teaches this: When men turn their back on God, and they live with this reprobate mind, that has no rights, no wrongs, no absolutes, and they live that way, they not only know that what they're doing is wrong, but they take pleasure in getting others to sin with them. They get pleasure in getting others to be on drugs, to get drunk, to have sex, to steal, to lie, to cheat, to do all of this. They have pleasure in that. Why? Because the others' lifestyle of degradation validates their lifestyle in their own minds. So it is a sign of destruction because they are not taking that straight and narrow path that Matthew 7 talks about. So he says, **"In no way alarmed by your opponents, which is a sign of destruction for them but of salvation for you, and that too, from God."** (Philippians 1:28) I mean your salvation is not your own doing; it is God that has saved you. You know when you study Romans; I've been saved from the penalty of sin, I am being saved from the power of sin, and I shall someday be saved from the presence of sin. It's all of God. He saves us. He saves us from the wages of sin, which is death. He saves us from the power of sin, which is the flesh. He saves us so that we can live for Him. He says, **"For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake."** In other words, suffering is a gift that goes with salvation. **"Experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me."** (Philippians 1:29-30) Well you've just picked up another word that you need to mark wherever you find it in the Bible, and that's suffering. And you need to know that all those who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. When you receive Jesus; then with Jesus goes suffering. But that's all right, because the suffering makes you what you ought to be. That's been seen in Paul and it's going to be seen in you and me. Press on, Beloved, to the prize, the high calling.