

UNSTOPPABLE JOY Through It All

I. Introduction

- A. Philippians is all about joy.
- B. Philippians 3:1 (NIV) *Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.*
 - 1. "Safeguard" = to protect something, to set in a safe place where it cannot be damaged or tampered with

II. We Safeguard Our Joy

- A. When Christ is our confidence
 - 1. Philippians 3:2 (NIV) *Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.*
 - 2. Philippians 3:3-6 (NIV) *³For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.*
 - 3. Philippians 3:7-9 (NIV) *⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.*
- B. When Christ is our pursuit
 - 1. Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV) *¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*
 - a. Our prison should not limit our pursuit.
- C. When Christ is our peace
 - 1. We rejoice
 - a. Philippians 4:4 (NIV) *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*
 - 2. We pray
 - a. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) *⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
 - i. Prayer is the antidote of worry!
 - 3. We reflect
 - a. Philippians 4:8 (NIV) *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*
 - i. Think about what we think about!

III. Conclusion

- A. Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV) ¹²*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.* ¹³*I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*
- B. I can make it through anything, if Jesus is my everything.