



Season 8 Podcasts

The Joy of the Gospel

By

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So far in my 8th Season Podcast series I've shared thoughts with you about:

- 8 Rules for Bible Study
- 40 Rules for Ministry
- The Heart of the Gospel
- Defending and Confirming the Gospel
- Your Fellowship in the Gospel
- The Completion of the Gospel
- The Affection of the Gospel
- The Discernment of the Gospel
- The Excellence of the Gospel
- The Sincerity of the Gospel
- The Fruit of the Gospel
- The Advancement of the Gospel
- The Preaching of the Gospel
- Living for the Gospel
- Conduct Worthy of the Gospel
- Suffering for the Gospel

The next aspect I'd like to share with you is the 'joy' of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul continued his letter to the Christians in Philippi by writing:

"Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Philippians 2:1-2

It's important to remember that chapters and verses were added to Paul's letters many centuries after he wrote them. The Philippians received one lengthy letter; just like letters they received from family and friends. Even though you and I have moved to 'Chapter Two' of Philippians in our Bibles, the original letter and copies of the letter did not have chapter divisions for the first thousand years of Christianity. I mention that to remind us of the importance of the 'context.' What we read in Philippians chapter one is the context for Paul's next statement.

I had a friend and theology professor who used to say that when I saw ‘therefore’ in the Bible, I should ask what the ‘therefore was there for.’ It is the Greek conjunction *oun*. It means ‘consequently, then, so, likewise now.’ One Bible study help states – “By extension, here’s how the dots connect.” ([Bible Hub](#)) Paul was pointing back to everything he had just written for proper ‘context.’

The words ‘if there is’ is *ei*, another conjunction (or conditional particle). It means ‘forasmuch as, a condition that is real.’ One Greek professor I studied with said that the word used in the way it was written could be understood as ‘since’ rather than a question about whether it might or might not be factual. With that in mind we could read verse one like this:

- since there is consolation (*paraklésis*) in Christ
- since there is comfort (*paramuthion*) of love (*agapé*)
- since there is fellowship (*koinónia*) of the Spirit (*Pneumatos*)
- since there is affection (*splagchnon*) and mercy (*oiktirmos*)

Paul used the words as ‘declarative’ statements rather than a questioning about the truthfulness of the statements. He presented each one as a ‘fact’ about what we have ‘in Christ.’

What Paul wanted the Philippians to do was do ‘fulfill’ his joy. It was and still is the ‘joy’ of the Gospel. The word ‘fulfill’ is *pléroó* and means ‘make full, complete, accomplish.’ The word ‘joy’ is *chara* and means ‘gladness, delight.’ How could the Philippians ‘complete’ Paul’s sense of ‘gladness and delight?’

- by being like-minded
- having the same love
- being of one accord
- of one mind

That combined attitude of an ‘assembly’ (*ecclesia*) of God’s people would be a delight to the heart of any pastor. If you want to ‘fulfill’ the joy of your church leadership, work toward those goals of being ‘like-minded,’ ‘having the same love,’ ‘being of one accord,’ and ‘of one mind.’ That’s what we will experience in Heaven. Why not have that now?

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In Christ's Love and Grace,

Mark McGee

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