

BELLEFIELD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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Our 5 Core Values:

1. *Glorifying God in worship;*
2. *Developing disciples;*
3. *Introducing people to Jesus;*
4. *Cultivating leaders;*
5. *Fostering deep relationships.*

Bellefield.org

4. The Revaluing of All Values— “Not Having a Righteousness of My Own”

Philippians 3:9-11

Let us return for a moment to 3:1: “...rejoice in the Lord! ...to write the same things to you...is a safeguard for you.” The safety concern is *protecting them for Christ’s glory*. But the key for that safeguarding of Christ’s glory in them is found in their not trusting in anybody but Jesus Christ for the complete sufficiency of their salvation. Moreover, once they realize fully that it no longer rests in them to achieve this highest attainable goal possible in life and death, that is, their eternal life, joy and felicity in Jesus Christ, then they are truly free to rejoice in the Lord always. And so are we: truly free to have a joy that is sub-

stantially unshakeable, because it is “in the Lord.” We are His; He is ours; we are in Him; He is in us. Yes, we will mourn with those who mourn. We will weep with those who weep. But when all the demands of God’s holy laws are already fully completed for us by Jesus Christ, well then, with this supreme gift of high value above all values, we reevaluate all and rejoice. *His* righteousness is ours. But not by “the flesh,” but “by faith alone” in Jesus Christ alone (vs.9).



Is this rejoicing in the Lord? What do you think?

For Applying God’s Holy Word & Taking It Home with Us

1. Do you need to walk away from something in your past that is keeping you from “rejoicing in the Lord” because you think it mars God’s acceptance of you? Talk to God today about that and by faith receive Christ’s complete righteousness as your own in this moment, and yours, too, as you stand before God accepted forever in the Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.
2. Paul had a sacred passion to *know* Christ (3:8). Do you? How can you get to *know* Jesus? Determine this week to talk with Him. Walk in prayer; kneel or sit or stand in prayer, but decide now to get to know Jesus by spending time with Him each day this week.
3. Are you a high achiever? Do you put your ambitions above your seeking the supremacy of Jesus Christ in your life? If so, repent of this. Yes, still enjoy your job & dreams, but get those priorities straight!
4. Practice this week rejoicing in the Lord, i.e., in His mercy, His grace, His care, His love, His provision for You, His Providence over your life. Rejoice in *Him*.

Bellefield Presbyterian Church

Here Are Your
Sermon Helps

God’s Passion for His Glory—Part 9 “The Revaluing of All Values”— A Profit & Loss Scenario for Rejoicing

Philippians 3:1-11

“Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord.” A “finally” in your writing always signifies some kind of wrap up. So you say, “*Finally, rejoice in the Lord.*” Yet you’ve already said the same thing several times earlier in your paper. Why? You’ve mentioned that you *rejoice* over Christ being proclaimed (1:18); and then you say you’ll continue to *rejoice* (1:18); that even if you die, you will still *rejoice* (2:17); then you say also in all this you want us to *rejoice* with you (2:18); that you’ll send your buddy to us so that we can



Caption describing picture or

rejoice, too faith (1:25); that you want your *joy* to be complete by our obvious unity (2:2); that when your friend comes to us you want us to receive him with all *joy* (2:29). Why all this call to *joy* and to *rejoice*? And as if that’s not enough, you’ve also already mentioned your *joy* over us in prayer (1:4); that you’ll be with us for our own *joy* in the

High Achiever in Chains

There is something magnificently Christ-glorifying when you take a man who is a marvelously high achiever, and you throw him in prison, put chains around him, but he nary misses a beat in his rejoicing in the Lord Jesus Christ. What’s that about, anyway? How do you *do* that?

WORSHIP

02/15/09

Today’s Sermon Moves @ a Glance

- The Word summons us to find our deepest joy in the Lord Jesus Christ & go hard after this. He, Jesus, is our key value and focus. So:

1. Rejoice in Jesus;
2. By *revaluing* all values & putting no confidence in the flesh;
3. By *revaluing* all values & considering any rival to Jesus Christ as rubbish;
4. By *revaluing* all values and not claiming any righteousness that is of your own doing, but rather, the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be received by faith alone, apart from works.

1. "Rejoice in the Lord"—The Key Value

The clarion command comes to us in *Philippians 3:1* clear as a trumpet call. What is this matter of "rejoice in the Lord"? It is God telling you that a divine joy in the Lord is possible for the believer in spite of adversities, struggles or difficulties. A disciple can still rejoice *in the Lord*—in His fellowship, in His love and grace, and in the knowledge of His sovereign dominion over our lives and

His rule over all our destinies. So, can you allow your heart's affections to rise to this on a Valentine's weekend? Rejoice in the *Lord*? in His sufficiency; in His provision, whatever it is; in His love; in His eternal promise; in His mercy that has saved you; in His Cross that has paid for you; in His Providence that has sustained you; rejoice in Jesus Christ; in His meri-

torious accomplishment for you; in His all sufficient grace all about you; in His promise never to leave you.

1a. Key Value Clarified

Philippians 3:3
"For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh...." A sacred passion, an intense holy desire, for glorying, exalting, in Christ Jesus is paramount for being able to "rejoice in the Lord." A supernatural enduing from the Holy Spirit is required; so cry out for this.



Jesus the Hub

"When the supremacy of Jesus is the hub of the wheel, all life's spokes are accordingly revalued as flowing forth for His glory."

2. The Revaluing of All Values— "No Confidence in the Flesh"

Philippians 3:3-4a—"For we....put no confidence in the flesh—though I myself have reasons for such confidence." Paul's 7-fold list of reasons is astounding & contains all that the world and religiosity would acclaim as surely securing acceptance in God's sight. So what could this *Philippians'* context for "confidence in the flesh" mean for us? It would be anything that we construct that would rival our trust in the complete sufficiency of Jesus Christ alone as having secured our right standing in the sight of God. It is anything that inhibits your finding your *deepest* life delight & rejoicing in *Jesus*. You like your good looks? Good education? Good family? Good rep? Fine. But let them not compete against Jesus.



No tug o' war about it: Jesus Christ is supreme.

3. The Revaluing of All Values— "I Consider Them Rubbish"



It's rubbish if it rivals Jesus.

Philippians 3:7-8b—"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake, I have suffered the loss of all things and count

them as rubbish...." Oh, I cannot say it strongly enough: *do not lose sight of the orbit of discourse here*. Paul is talking only about the *way* of salvation. He is contrasting two different ways here—one sad: you earn it; the other glad: it was earned for you by someone else named Jesus. And the fact is, the Apostle Paul had tried to earn it; he had heaped up a list of accomplishments admired by all. So now his focal point is the fierce rejection of any way of his earning by his own merits his acceptance before God. Only when you see this as Paul's orbit of discourse can you possibly understand how all previous resting places for your salvation suddenly become dung, or rubbish. They become completely invalid & smelly, something for the city dump—when compared to the sweet supremacy of Jesus Christ being glorified by your resting solely in Him alone for your acceptance in God's sight. Do I reject that before I knew Jesus, I got a Pitt education? That I played football? That I grew up in Pittsburgh? If they are my resting place for my salvation in God's sight, you bet I do. But they aren't, so I don't see them as dung.

3a. An Example of a Sacred & Passionate Comparative Disvaluing

Dr. R. C. Sproul said once that a woman came on to him, & he had two reactions. One it made him sick; and two, he suddenly felt extremely protective, covetous and jealous for his own marriage to Vesta, his wife. The prospect of adultery



It matters not how she looks...

we would say became the rubbish to him that it ought to be to everyone: dung, garbage, that to ingest would make one vomit compared to the surpassing greatness of his wife Vesta. Just so, Paul guards the preciousness of faith *alone* in Jesus Christ the Lord.

"Paul is speaking passionately against the Judaizers who said works 'of the flesh' had to be added to faith alone in Jesus Christ if one is to be accepted by God. Paul says, 'No!' and calls his own such 'works of the flesh' rubbish, compared to Jesus Christ alone."