

Rejoice in All Circumstances: Be Glad and Rejoice!

Reflect

1. What is something in your daily life that you grumble about doing?
2. What are some of the hardest things to face in life?
3. How does faith change how we face them?

Read Your Bible

- Philippians 2:12-18

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What is the salvation that Paul talks about? What does it mean for you?
2. What is God's good purpose for you? For this world?
3. As people of faith, what are the things we often argue about?
4. How are you holding "firmly to the word of life?" How can you do that better?

5. In what ways does your faith call you to sacrifice?

6. In what ways does your faith call you to serve?

7. How is the gladness that comes from God different than the other things that can make us happy in this world?

Conclusion

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul reminds his readers what it is that defines us. We are not defined by anything but what is ours in Christ Jesus and the salvation that He is working out in us. Paul isn't denying that we will experience sadness, grief, anger, and hurt as we make our way through this life, but He is reminding us that in all that, Jesus calls us to a life of gladness because our salvation is found in Him and what He has done for us in His death and resurrection. As people of faith, we face suffering with hope, service with perseverance, and hardship with a joy that only Jesus can give to us. We might get discouraged. We might worry. We might feel down. But even in those things, we don't need to grumble or argue, because we have something bigger than the pains of this world. We have the power and presence of our God!

Pray

God of hope and joy, in life we often experience pain and hardship, suffering and sadness. Yet you call us into a different way of being. By the power of Your Son, You have transformed us into forgiven people. Show us how to receive that salvation with joy and to enter gladly into the life You call us to. In Jesus' name. Amen.