

Living A Joyful Christian Life (Philippians 1:12-26)

Bruce Wilkinson

“Philippians is the epistle of joy and encouragement in the midst of adverse circumstances.”



- **His journey to Rome**
- **His house arrest**

Acts 28:16

*"When we entered Rome,
Paul was allowed to stay by himself,
with the soldier who was guarding him."*

Philippians 1:18

"I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice."



I. TO HAVE A PROPER PERSPECTIVE

(1:12-14)

12 *“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.*

13 *As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*

14 *And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.”*



1. Result:

Evangelism to Unbelievers

Rom. 1:11

“I long to see you ”

Phil. 4:22

*“All God’s people here send you greetings,
especially those who belong to Caesar’s
household.”*



2. Result:

Encouragement to Believers

Phil. 1:14

*"to speak the word of God
without fear"*

Romans 8:28

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."



II. TO HAVE THE RIGHT PRIORITIES

(1:15-20)

1. To Advance the Gospel of Christ

(1:15-18)

15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

16 The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

(Phil.1:15-18)



Phil. 1:18

“But what does it matter?

*The important thing is that
in every way, whether from
false motives or true,*

Christ is preached.

And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice.”



2. To Rely on the Strength of God (1:19,20)

19 *“for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.”*

20 *“I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.”*



Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (NKJV).

Matthew 11:28

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”



Daniel 3:16-18

16 “*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.*”

17 *If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand.*

18 *But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.””*



III. TO HAVE A TRUE PURPOSE

(1:21-26)

21 “For to me, to live is Christ
and to die is gain.

22 If I am to go on living in the body,
this will mean fruitful labor for me.

Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with
Christ, which is better by far;

24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.



25 *Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,*

26 *so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.” (1:21-26)*

- “For me, living is for **POSSESSIONS.**”
- “For me, living is for **PLEASURE.**”
- “For me, living is for **PRESTIGE.**”

Chuck Swindoll

- For me to live is **money**
... and to die is to ***leave it behind.***
- For me to live is **fame**
...and to die is being ***quickly forgotten.***
- For me to live is **power** and **influence**
...and to die is to ***lose both.***
- For me to live is **possessions**
...and to die is to depart with ***nothing in my hand.***



What's the secret to joy?

It's found in having the *right purpose*.

Paul says,

“For me, living is for Christ.”

Henry James says,

“The best use of your life is to invest it in something that will outlast it.”

Phil. 1:25

“continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith”



CONCLUSION

Can we live a joyful Christian life even though we are facing difficulties in our lives?

YES!

- I. We need to have the *proper perspective*
- II. We need to have the *right priorities*
- III. We need to have the *true purpose*

