

# SERMON OUTLINE

3745 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Sunday Morning 10/7/07

## *“Serving with Joy”*

### **I. Topic to be Discussed**

- A. Without the right perspective it is easy to become discouraged in our service to God and with life in general.
- B. Paul’s positive approach in the book of Philippians (even in the midst of hardship) provides a model for us to follow.

### **II. Background of the Philippian Letter**

- A. Survey of Paul’s Journeys and their connection with Philippi.
- B. Paul’s arrest and journey to Rome. What was it like?
- C. Paul writes from this imprisonment to the church in Philippi.

### **III. Serving with Joy**

- A. Look to the Good in Your Circumstances: Philippians 1:12-18
  1. Look at Paul’s list of good: The governor’s palace has heard of Christ; Everyone else connected with Paul has heard of Christ; Christians are strengthened by Paul’s example of faith; Christ is proclaimed!!!
  2. This requires a self-LESS attitude
    - a. It is not about ME - Phil 2:17-18 - rejoice in sacrifice
    - b. Philippians 3:7 - I count it all loss in view of ...
  3. He is not minimizing the suffering (see 2 Cor 11:22-29; 2 Tim 4:16-18) but is comparing those sufferings with the immense good that comes from them (2 Tim 4:17 - all Gentiles hear).
- B. Be Passionate About the Most Important Thing: Philippians 1:19-26
  1. As Christians we are in a win-win situation, to live is Christ, to die is gain.
  2. It shows Paul’s passion about serving, that was just as important as going to be with Christ.
  3. How is your fruitful labor going?
- C. Keep Your Eye on the Prize: Philippians 1:27-30
  1. Let God’s grace motivate your life: A wonderful prize; A fruitful work; A promised victory
  2. In no way alarmed by opponents

### **IV. Conclusion**

- A. What is your life about?
- B. Are you willing to give yourself for the benefit of others?