

SERMON OUTLINE

3745 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Sunday Morning 12/21/08

“The Keys to Joy in Life”

I. Topic to be Discussed

- A. We should be serious: **1 Pet 1:13; 4:7; 5:8** - sober
- B. But being serious about the right things creates a peace, joy and ease in life that “surpasses all comprehension” (**Phil 4:7**)

II. Some Preliminary Assumptions: 2 Corinthians 4:1 - “lose heart”

- A. Your Life Is Challenging: 2 Corinthians 1:5-7
 - 1. Our lives are never going to be easy - health, family, persecutions, pressures, emptiness - CANNOT eliminate
- B. In Talking About Joy: Not minimizing hardship, Not ignoring difficulties, Not eliminating trials

III. Finding Joy in Life

- A. Being Who You Ought to Be: [PURITY] 2 Corinth 4:1-6
 - 1. The qualities listed: **4:2** - house cleaners (renounced hidden things); **4:2** - heart cleaners (no ulterior motives); **4:2** - clay not diamonds (letting truth mold us); **4:2** - live in glass house (commending = “introduce to”; **4:5-6** - servant = “devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests”
 - 2. WHY? **4:6** - Because Jesus has changed my life
 - 3. Key to Joy: A pure life
- B. Looking Where You Ought to Look: [PERSPECTIVE] 2 Cor 4:7-12
 - 1. The “View” listed: **4:7** - correct view of self / strengths - jars of clay; **4:7** - correct view of God's power; **4:8-9** - seeing the good in the bad; **4:10-11** - finding the life after the dying (denying self)
 - 2. HOW? **4:10** - the GOOD is inextricably tied to the EVIL - cannot be separated - LOOK for the GOOD
 - 3. Key to Joy: The right perspective
- C. Valuing What You Ought to Value: [PRIORITIES] 2 Cor 4:13-18
 - 1. The Valuable things: **4:13** - complete trust in God; **4:14** - being right in God's eyes; **4:15** - the benefit others receive (more and more); **4:15** - God's glory; **4:16** - seeing our inward (spiritual) growth; **4:17** - possessing eternal things
 - 2. Dare to Compare - what God offers with the trials we face!
 - 3. Key to Joy: The right priorities

IV. Conclusion: In a difficult time in Paul's life - He saw God's GRACE