

Seed Delivery: Joy II

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY: THE PAUL OF PHILIPPIANS

1. Who was he?

- Founded the Philippian church during his second missionary journey (c. 53-57 AD).
- Born in Tarsus
- Was a Pharisee
- Was a Roman citizen

2. Why was he important?

- He was the key figure in bringing the gospel to the Gentile world around the Eastern Mediterranean.
- In addition to writing over 1/2 of the New Testament, he also was outstanding among the apostles for defining and explaining Christianity as not an off-shoot of Judaism, but the true way to the true salvation of man from his sins and reconciliation back to God.

3. What were his circumstances?

- Paul was imprisoned in Rome at the time for a period of two years (c. 60-62 AD). He would be dead by execution 3-4 years later.

4. How did he live out this characteristic? Why does he matter?

- Joy in _____ : **Philippians 1:12-14**
- Joy in _____ : **Philippians 1:5-8**
 - Although the second member of the Godhead, Jesus Christ came to earth to live as a lowly man, submitting Himself to His Father and dying the death of a criminal (Luke 22:42-44)
 - Likewise, God empowers us to do His work when we are obedient to Him in our service.

- Likewise, as Paul saw himself offered up for the good of the Gospel, so he could **σκιρτάω** (*skirtaō*) and **χαίρω** (*chairō*) at the prospect, for as He obeyed God, others were blessed. (Philippians 2:17)

- **σκιρτάω** (*skirtaō*): leap
- **χαίρω** (*chairō*): be exceedingly glad

- Glad:

(1) _____ (What signal am I transmitting when I frown?)

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

(7) _____

(8) _____

- **Joy in BELIEVING: Philippians 3:4-14**

- If anyone had reason to think himself to be righteous, it was Paul, given his pedigree. But he counted it as **σκύβαλον** (*skybalon*). (Philippians 3:9-10).

- In turn, Paul had _____ for the work of ministry and didn't get hung up and where he came from.

- But God used his pedigree to reach nations of people that the other apostles couldn't reach.

- **Joy in GIVING: Philippians 4:10-19**

- Paul learned to be **αὐτάρκης** (*autarkēs*) in whatever condition he was in, even while being imprisoned for 4 years. (Philippians 4:11)

- **αὐτάρκης** (*autarkēs*)

- Sufficient for one's self, strong enough or possessing enough to need no aid or support.
 - _____ of external circumstances.
 - Contented with one's lot, with one's means, though the slenderest.
- Thus Paul had the right _____ when he was blessed by the Philippians. They were the only church that looked out for him during his time of distress.
 - Thus, he blessed them to receive the like benefits from his God (because he had a personal experience and testimony of God's ability to provide for him) that he had. (Philippians 4:19).

Life Application

1. Pick one relationship that needs an infusion of joy: _____

2. Find one small thing you can do this week to bring joy into that relationship:

