

## Week 1: Expressions of Joy

**Series:** Philippians - Finding Joy Right Where You Are

**Scripture:** Philippians 1:1-11

**Reader:** Philippians 2:5-11

We can find joy \_\_\_\_\_ we are.

\_\_\_\_\_ = douloi = slaves, a position of humility, submission, and obedience

\_\_\_\_\_ = hagioi = a community set apart to belong to God as they participate in the holiness of God

We are called to look \_\_\_\_\_ our current \_\_\_\_\_.

**v6** ...*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

We are called to \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Paul's confidence isn't in the \_\_\_\_\_ of this handful of believers that comprise the church, but in the \_\_\_\_\_-ness of God.

**v9** ... *that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

\_\_\_\_\_ = agape = Christ-like love

\_\_\_\_\_ = dokimazein = putting to the test to prove genuine

Paul and Timothy, humble and obedient servants of Christ Jesus.

To all the believers, set apart in what Jesus has been and is doing in Baker City and around the world,

we greet you with the grace that we have received from God, and the wholeness that can only come from our Lord Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father,

I thank God every time that I think about you and your nearly 100 years in Baker. Every time I think of you, it brings great joy to my heart because you are partners with me, and the church around the world, in seeking that the Gospel message would be experienced by others as we live out the good news of Christ. Yes, even from the very first day that you heard it and responded until now, you have been confident in Christ's work that He began in you, and we all know is faithful to fully complete when He returns. What an immensely joyful day it will be when we will see him face to face!

Even as I am bound in chains, it's right for me to feel so overjoyed when I think about each participant in the church today. You are all very near and dear to me because you haven't just received the message but have participated in proclaiming and living into God's incredible news. Whether we are together, or separated by quarantine, we are reminded that we are all recipients of God's grace. And with God as my witness, I long to be with you in person. I long to experience the safety, health and fellowship, and to even give you a friendly hug, as we represent Christ to one another and our community. We are ambassadors of God's Kingdom!

As such, it is my prayer, as you live for God, that your love for one another would continue to grow more and more. That all wisdom and knowledge of God's love would be overflowing poured out through you, so that you would know the godly way to think, speak, and live out your faith. By this, even when tested by difficult circumstances, you would be found pure, without anything that could be held up as impure, when Christ Jesus returns. That your desires, motives, words and actions would bear fruit as they speak of what Christ Jesus has done and continues to do in you, so that in all things God may be praised and glorified.