**NO GREATER JOY**

***This is where it’s at***

**Philippians 3:12-21**

**Key verse:***“For ourcitizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Philippians 3:20)

*“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.****13****Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,****14****I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 3:12-14)

* **”Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.”** - **C.S. Lewis** (*Mere Christianity*)
* **Genesis 4**- **Rules without relationship lead to judgmental rebellion hindering/preventing reconciliation.**

**I EXPERIENCE JOY WHEN I THINK OF MYSELF LESS, AND GOD AND HIS PLAN MORE.**

* *“Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;****16****however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.****17****Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.* ***18****For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,****19****whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”* (Philippians 3:15-19)
* **Holy (observant) ostentatious**- pretentious display; designed to impress or attract notice**/obtrusive**-draws attention to oneself in an unpleasant way. Imposing oneself or opinions on another**)**
* **The gospel of gain is not the Gospel at all.**
* ***Is your worship work for God, or an extension of your relationship with God?***

**I EXPERIENCE JOY WHEN I LIVE HOLY/WHOLLY UNTO GOD AS HIS EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD**

* *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;****21****who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”* (Philippians 3:20-21)
* **Heavenly Minded (Yahweh)**
* **Isaiah 6:1-8** – *“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.”*
* **Job 42:5-6** - *“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.* ***6****Therefore I abhor[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job%2042&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-13929a)*] myself, And repent in dust and ashes.”*

**I WILL NEVER EXPERIENCE JOY UNTIL I UNDERSTAND THAT UNLESS I AM HEAVENLY MINDED, I AM NO EARTHLY GOOD**

**I can get with this:** **I can get with that:**

Humble Precepts of God

Holy Power of God

Heavenly Minded Relationship with God

**This is where it’s at:**

* *“However, don’t rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”* (Luke 10:20 CSB)
* *“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—****9****not from works, so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9 CSB)
* *“But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared,****5****he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.****6****He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior****7****so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.”* (Titus 3:4-7 CSB)

**BEING KNOWN BY GOD BECAUSE OF HIS GRACE BRINGS NO GREATER JOY!!**

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What brings you the greatest joy?
* What does Philippians 3:12-21 teach us about ourselves & God?
* Who were the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, and Zealots?

**Digging Deeper:**

* Based on this study, what brought Paul true joy? What brings you joy?
* What does it mean to be Graced by God? Are you secure in your salvation apart from your works?
* What was your big takeaway? What impacted you personally?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected to grow in your relationship with God and others, contact the church office at 225-272-3740, and we can help find a group that fits your schedule.