

# Rejoicing ...in What?

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!” And “I

know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:4, 12-13).

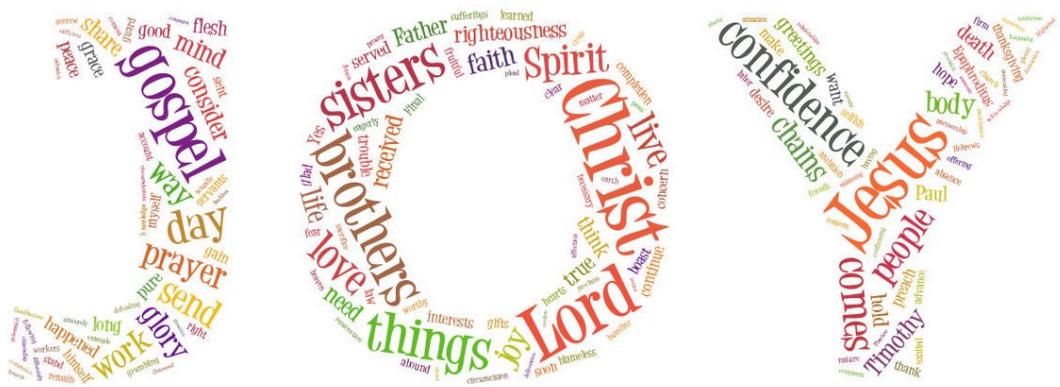
It would be impossible to tell just how lives over the millennia have been positively impacted and perhaps forever changed by all the incredibly powerful truths found in Paul’s epistles. We see “sandwiched in between” the ever-empowering and encouraging epistles to the first-century congregations of the Lord’s church in Ephesus and Colossae (letters which are often described as “the church of Christ” and “the Christ of the church” respectively), these three epistles together, comprise an ever present “heart and soul of a trio of truth.” Our Bibles would be sadly lacking if they were absent from our “minds eye.”

However, do you recall what else they have in common? They were all written during Paul’s first Roman confinement—yes, he was in prison! Really, stop and consider that for a moment. Paul could no longer travel about to preach and teach as he had done in the past. While he still managed to visit with those who dared come and be with him (Acts 28:30-31), his “social and occupational” movements were severely restricted. Life as he had known it – and perhaps, maybe even taken for granted – had now ground to a screeching halt. Does this type of “lack of ability to move about” sound familiar? Although Paul could not have known the full extent of God’s divine purpose at the time, through Paul’s inability to carry on with his regular daily pursuits and activities, God was providing him with the “free time” to—amongst other things—write... Yes indeed, write three beautiful, magnificent, and empowering epistles (see Romans 8:28)!

So the question for us is this: With our new-found “free time,” what are we doing in activity for God? Do we recall instances where we may have said something like, “I just don’t have the time to study daily,” or, “I’d like to talk to people more about Jesus, but I’m just too busy?” Or possibly, “I wish someone would call and talk to me...” Well, now you have it—free time! We have been given plenty of free time!

Are we, like Paul (see Philippians 1:12-13, 4:22), making the most of the time (see Ephesians 5:14-17)? May we “walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light” (Colossians 1:10-12).

God bless you today, and tomorrow too!



**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** ...when we can!

**Bible Study:** Consider your study of God’s Word (see **2 Timothy 2:15**) Make time to learn Scripture today...

**NMCCH:** collecting aluminum foil and kitchen trash bags (pick up is later...) \*—THANK YOU for reading!