

## *I Will Rejoice*

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: Women's Retreat. **New Bel Class**. CCBC. Suits for Haiti.
- B. Slide6 Sun Night of Prayer - Tonight.
- C. Slide7 Men's Breakfast - April 21st. *Daniel Jeremiah*, former NFL Scout, currently an analyst for NFL Network & writer with [NFL.com](http://NFL.com). (Path to the Draft)
- D. **Announce:** This Tues night I get to wrap up our Men's study. *Values + Action = Harmony w/God*
- E. **Announce:** Revelation BS Wed Nights. *Are goal...Behold the Lamb* (lamb 28x's)
- F. Slide8 Danielle Turnure update: after 5 days awoke. *Today is a Good Day. This morning they started **physical therapy** and with the help of dad, uncle Glen and the PT they lifted Dani to a standing position 5 diff x's, with her supporting about 50-60%. She was smiling and very pleased with her accomplishment. AND THEN we got an afternoon miracle, where she engaged in a conversation for about **10 minutes!** She was laughing and answering questions, the most significant was when we asked her what her tattoo was she said "something about I am my beloved and my beloved is mine". It was a lot of stimulation and she is now resting but oh the **Joy** is pouring out, we are praising the Lord for every precious alert moment we are having and for His continued healing of her brain*

### II. Slide9 **Philippi Background: (Acts 16:6-34)**

- A. We will start in *Acts 16*.
  1. **Why?** Well, this is where Paul **1st visited Philippi** on his *2nd missionary journey* when he was out starting **Jesus communities**.
  2. The **letter** he writes to the church in **Philippi** is **10 yrs later**.
  3. **Read Acts 16:6-34**
- B. **Macedonian call** (6-10). **Destination**, Europe. **Duty**, to preach the gospel.
- C. (11) **Sailing** – On that ship were seeds of life for **Europe**. **Later** to become seeds that would sail to **America**.
- D. **Sat down & spoke** - What an insignificant way to *open up a continent*.
  1. Free, simple, informal, w/nothing set or elaborate about the service, **just prayer & an opportunity of testimony for Christ**.

- E. (14) A **business woman/CEO Fashionista** in Philippi from Thyatira. **A Gentile God-fearer.**  
1st convert made in Europe.
1. **Thyatira** – center of the purple dye business. Since purple goods were expensive, Lydia was likely a wealthy person. And traveled far more than most women of her day.
- F. (15) In at least 2/3rds of the world...all **important decisions** are made **by groups**.
1. **Because only insignificant decisions are left to individuals, when** missionaries come w/an individualistic gospel, it frequently seems as though it must be an **unimportant issue to those they are trying to win.** (Peter Wagner; Acts of the H.S.)
- G. (16-24) 2 women were the 1st European converts.
1. **Was this what the great call to Macedonia was all about? For a ladies prayer mtg? For a demon possessed slave girl? Where was the man of Macedonia?**
- H. (33) The 1st recorded episode of an *out-and-out pagan* becoming a believer in Jesus Christ. (no prior exposure to Judaism)
1. A heart so hard it needed **a great earthquake** to **crack it open**.
- I. **Acts 16 Wrap Up. So we had:** A religious business woman w/an open/soft heart.  
A slave girl with the Philippian-Python-possessed-heart.  
A rugged roman soldier prison guard w/a hard heart.
1. **God has a 1000 keys to open a 1000 different doors in order to deliver His own.** George MacDonald
- J. **A heart must be penetrated by God.**
1. A heart may be as **thin** as an egg shell, **like** the Philippian business woman.
  2. A heart may have a **black veil** over it, **like** the Philippian slave girl.
  3. A heart may be **thick** & needs an great earthquake to crack it, **like** the Philippian prison guard.
    - a) **But a heart must be penetrated by God.**
  4. Whether your heart is **soft, blind, or hard**...the Lord wants to **open** it this morning.

### III. Slide10-12 **Philippians Intro: (1,2) I Will Rejoice**

- A. **Philippi**: Located about 9 miles inland from the northern shore of the **Aegean Sea**, on the famous *Egnatian Way*. It was in the Roman Province of **Macedonia**.
1. **Philippi became a colony** of the Roman Empire in 31bc.
  2. **What's a Colony? For our citizenship is in heaven** (3:20) - Some translate it *we are a colony of heaven*.
    - a) Rome would normally send out **300 veteran soldiers** who served their time, w/their families, & settle them in a strategic location.
    - b) They would **speak Roman language, wear Roman dress, have Roman ceremonies, & Roman customs**. They were stubbornly & unalterably **ROMAN**.
    - c) Listen to the *Roman Pride* in Acts 16:20,21 **And they brought them** (Paul & Silas) **to the magistrates, and said, These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.**
    - d) Paul is saying, Just as the **Roman colonists** never forget that *they belong to Rome*, **you** must never forget that **you** are *citizens of heaven*; & **your conduct must match your citizenship**.
- B. **The Letter**: It's Paul's most personal/tender letter. Not once does he correct or modify behavior. [when the Philippians *broke open the seal*, the 1st word they read was their beloved apostle's name...Paul!]
1. It's a glimpse of *a mature church, a mature christianity, mature believers*.
  2. It's a book filled with *coffee cup slogans*. *To live is Christ to die is gain* (key vs). *I press on. Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I Pressed towards the goal. Rejoice in the lord. Be anxious for nothing. I can do all things through Christ he strengthens me. My God shall supply all your needs.*
  3. **Its a letter about Joy**. Key word & main theme (16x's)
    - a) A letter of Joy must have been written by someone sunbathing on the Mediterranean right? **No**, from a Roman Prison.
    - b) Joy is to be found in something **more than good feelings & comfortable settings**.
    - c) **That something is Someone**. [*Jesus Christ* is found 18x's in ch1 alone]

- C. **Slide13 The church:** was made up of primarily **Gentiles**. **Women** played an important role in the life of the church. The Philippians were a model of **generosity**. They were loyal to Paul (shown by the gifts they sent him & to know his state during imprisonment)
- D. **Outline:** *Thanking. Praying. Preaching.*

#### IV. **Slide14 THANKING (3-8)**

- A. (4) **Joy** - Here is Paul's 1st mention of *Joy*.
- B. (6) Emphasis on **HE** (God).
- C. (7) **In my chains** - Romans did not use prisons for punishment, **but** only to detain those awaiting trial or execution.
- D. Like *Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon*, *Philippians* was written while Paul was in prison. **Tradition says, Rome.**
  - 1. Paul was imprisoned in **Caesarea** for 2yrs. In house arrest in **Rome** for 2yrs.
- E. (9) **Knowledge** - not just **intellectual** **but** *experiential*, acquired through acts of love.
- F. **All discernment** - The Greek term used here refers to the ability to *make decisions for the benefit of others*.
- G. (10) **Excellent**, or *what is superior* - when the Philippians' love abounds, they will be able to determine what is *most valuable or beneficial to the community of believers*.

#### V. **Slide15a PRAYING (9-11)**

- A. Prison may cut off a **man** from **men**, **but not** from **God**. :)
- B. Paul provides an update on his circumstances. First, he describes here how his imprisonment has provided opportunities for ministry. (**Next**, vs.19-26, **looking ahead to his possible release & the advancement of the gospel**)
- C. First we note, **thanksgiving & prayer** go together so well, because they are of the *same spiritual activity*.
- D. **Slide15b We note 2 petitions here:** for a growing love & for complete character.
- E. **For a growing love** - it is to *abound*. It is to be *present in abundance*.
  - 1. **Abound** - to pour over, overflow.
  - 2. **Also**, it is to be *more & more*, building love layer, upon love layer.

- a) What a picture of the Christian life, of NT Christianity: abounding in **life**, abounding in **hope**, abounding in the **power of the HS**, abounding in **grace**, and here *abounding in love*.
3. Paul also gave instruction on **how** to implement **this love**.
- a) **Love is a will to do good** to the objects of one's love.
- b) This intent to *do good* requires both **knowledge** and **discernment**.
- (1) **Knowledge** = **not** an intellectual knowledge (*a product of the mind*) **but** of **experiential, applied knowledge** (*the product of experiencing by living*).
- (2) **Discernment** = depth of insight.
4. **Slide16a** **So** it's a **growing love**, supported by **proper knowledge & moral insight**, that enables one to **see the best way to live**, in light of *the day of Christ*
- F. **For complete character** - Growing love provides for *character development*.
1. **Sincere and without offense, filled w/the fruit of righteousness. Or...** (NLT) *That you may live **pure and blameless lives and filled with the fruit of your salvation**.*
2. **Slide16b** Note 2 words in vs.11...**by** & **to**. **It's the difference of both means & motives.**
- a) These are **by** Jesus - **only Christ can produce these qualities in us.**
- b) **The difference is the Means.** It is...**by** Jesus Christ!
- (1) It changes one's **means & motives.**
- (2) **Christian goodness is not a matter of Degree but of Kind.**
- (3)A Christians **righteousness** will **exceed** that of the Scribes & Phar's. Mt.5:20
- (a) Not necessarily in **quantity** but in **quality.**
- (4) **The means** of our goodness is **not our own effort to copy** His life, **but His living in us.** (Swindoll)
- (5) It is **supernatural**, it is the result of **a spirit filled life.**
- c) **It's also the difference in Motive.** Our Motivation is **To the Glory & Praise of God.**

## VI. Slide17a **PREACHING** (12-18)

- A. **Slide17b** (18) Sometimes you can't applaud their **motive**, but you only their **motion...the gospel was moving forward**.
1. Are you big enough to see God can use a preacher who is building an empire for themselves? (*selfish ambition*)
  2. A jealous & insecure pastor? (*envious & strife*)
  3. Did you see Benny Hinn on YouTube admitting *going to far* in his teaching on prosperity recently?
- B. **Read** what Paul wrote in Galatians 1:6-9 *I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*
1. To the Galatians he says, *let em be accursed* to Philippians he says, *so what? One condemnation, the other indifference?* [*Contradictory???*]
  2. **Nope**. To the **Galatians** he was denouncing those who **distorted** the gospel of grace into a message of works...*Anathema!!!*
  3. To the **Philippians**, he's rejoicing that despite the *impure motives of some*, the *Good News of Jesus Christ* is still being proclaimed **accurately**.
    - a) The **message** matters most, **not the messenger**.
- C. **Slide18** Paul had a single passion...*The Gospel*.
1. He focused on **Preaching** **not** on the *Preacher*.
- D. **I rejoice** yes, & will *continue to rejoice* - What makes you Joyful?
1. **Slide19a** Or, ~~I rejoice~~ **I will rejoice**. *I will continue to rejoice*.
  2. **Slide19b** (Spurgeon) **Joy on the face is the result of the shining reflection of God in our hearts**.
- E. **Communion**:
1. **Bread** -
  2. **Cup** -