



**SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Tuesday, 6/28/2022**

**Scripture: Philippians**

**TITLE: Philippians – Joy in the Journey**

What's the worse news you've ever received? For me, it was when we knew my son had cancer. Cancer is one word you never want to hear...especially when it's someone you love dearly. Maybe you've had an experience like this or something similar.

We will all face unexpected and devastating trials. The question is how will you respond? If you want to respond well in the face of all trials, then you should read the Book of Philippians.

Philippians is another favorite book of mine because it never gets old. Its timeliness is always treasured.

The Book of Philippians was written by the Apostle Paul while sitting in prison in Rome. Philippi wasn't the bustling city of commerce like Ephesus, but instead was a military outpost and Roman colony. Paul's second missionary journey led to his ministry in Philippi with the conversion of Lydia and others. Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned, but this resulted in the conversion of the Philippian jailer.

Why did Paul write this letter? It was a thank you note to the believers in Philippi for their help in his time of need. He leveraged this opportunity to encourage Christianity and lasting joy.

In chapter 1 Paul recognizes the reality of our circumstances. But as you continue in the book you find there is lasting joy for believers by having the mind of Christ, the knowledge of Christ, and the peace of Christ.

So what's the main thing from the Book of Philippians? It's joy in the journey. Everyone of us will experience hardship and trial in our faith and because of our faith. But how will we respond? We can have divine joy through God's peace.

Philippians 4:4-9 (CSB) says,

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

“Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if

there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things. Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:6-7 was our theme verse that we quoted and prayed continually when our son was battling cancer. We needed divine peace. We needed joy in the journey. This was and is only possible by focusing on the truth: Jesus Christ. That peace and joy is available if and when we ask God.

So here's my challenge for you today: look, ask, and receive that joy and peace. I don't know what pain or hardship you are facing today. But I do know that God is bigger than it. I know that you can have peace when you focus on Him. I know you can find joy in the journey as you rely on Him as you await an eternal future with our Savior. So look at Jesus. Ask God for that peace and joy and then receive it.

When we do this, we will win the day.