



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 166 - Rejoice Always! (Philippians)

Finding Joy in Prison

Jesus told Paul he would suffer many things for the sake of the Gospel he would preach. This prediction rang true numerous times in Paul's life. In connection with the Philippians Paul was twice imprisoned: once was for sharing the faith while in Philippi, and the other was when he wrote his letter to the Philippians from prison in Rome.

- What do you think would run through your mind if you were ever locked up for your faith?
- How could Paul work through the injustice of what he suffered for Jesus' sake?
- How could Paul be confident his imprisonment would turn out for his good, as well as those he witnessed to from prison?
- What joy did Paul hold on to through those difficult months and years in jail?
- How can we find joy when we are persecuted for our faith?

A New Perspective on Death

Hanging over Paul's head was always the very real possibility of being executed for his faith. But Paul knew before he had ever set out to share the Gospel, he himself had been involved in the imprisonment and executions of many Christians.

- As Paul faced the valley of the shadow of death, where did he keep his thoughts focused?
- Why is it important to keep our eternal home in mind, especially when we struggle through difficult problems in life?
- How can Paul's view on death change our perspective on cancer or other life-threatening situations in our lives?
- How can we draw comfort in the face of a loved one's death by recalling Paul's words, "To live is Christ, to die is gain"?

Rejoice Always

Unlike many of Paul's epistles, his letter to the Philippians is filled with joy from beginning to end.

- How can we rejoice in the Lord when life isn't going our way?
- Why is it so easy to forget to thank God after He has answered our prayers and delivered us from a great problem?
- Why is thanksgiving an important component of rejoicing always?