

Sermon Outline
April 26, 2020
Learning from the Isolated – Joy
Philippians 1:1-6

Opening

- “When is this going to end?”
- Learning from people in the Bible who lived under isolation

Paul and the Philippians

- Paul’s most affectionate letter
- Paul’s situation
 - Philippians 1:13-14
 - Paul is under house arrest. Paul is in lockdown. Paul is isolated
- Paul’s letter is amazing
 - No sign of resentment
 - Full of joy
 - “joy” in Philippians 1:4, 25; 2:2, 29; 4:1
 - “rejoice” in Philippians 1:18; 2:17, 18, 29; 3:1; 4:4, 10

What is joy?

- Joy is NOT the same as happiness
 - Joy is the inevitable experience that comes when we hear the Good News of Jesus
 - Haydn quote: “When I think upon God, my heart is so full of joy that the notes dance and leap, as it were, from my pen, and since God has given me a cheerful heart it will be pardoned me that I serve Him with a cheerful spirit.”
- Joy is directly connected with God’s grace.
 - The words for “joy” and “grace” come from the same origin in the New Testament.
 - Joy comes to those who trust in God’s supreme act of grace
 - “I have given Christ countless reasons not to love me. None of them changed his mind.”
 - “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21)
 - No circumstance can ever take our joy away
- Joy in Philippians 4:4
 - This is a command
 - We don’t focus on our circumstances – see Philippians 4:11-13

What does this mean practically?

- Philippians 4:5 – we are to be gentle
- Philippians 4:6 – we are to be prayerful
- Philippians 4:8 – we are to be “mindful” – focusing on what is God.

Ending: the story of Andre Massena and the Austrian Church Bells.

Nothing is as strong as our faith in Jesus accompanied by the joy of the Lord!