

Date: November 9, 2025

Series: Philippians: Triumphant, Tenacious, Battle-Tested Joy

Title: The Safest, Best, Most Exciting Thing You Can Do!

Text: Philippians 3:1-11 (Part 1)



INTRODUCTION

“Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.” (Philippians 3:1)

Note: The truth contained in this book is meant to lead us and inspire us to more joy, to greater joy, to continual rejoicing in Christ!

Note: “Rejoicing” is a verb, an action, a decision, a choice to praise Jesus, to hope in Jesus, to treasure Jesus, to rest in Jesus, and to be content in Jesus.

Note: By choosing to rejoice in Jesus, you protect and guard your heart and mind against all kinds of harmful distractions and temptations!

I. FOUR SURPRISING ESSENTIALS OF JOY

Philippians 3:2 -

1) Rejoicing in Jesus requires discernment!

Dogs...

Evildoers...

Those who mutilate the flesh...

“Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”
(Galatians 5:2-6)

Philippians 3:3a -

2) Rejoicing in Jesus celebrates both our identity and the Spirit's work in our lives!

“For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.” (Romans 2:28-29)

Philippians 3:3b -

3) Rejoicing in Jesus absolutely involves trusting and resting in HIS work — not yours!

(Phil. 1:21; 1 Cor. 15:10; Gal. 6:14; Luke 18:13; Psalm 51:1-2; Titus 3:4-7)

Philippians 3:4-8 -

4) Rejoicing in Jesus is seen/evidenced by TREASURING HIM above everything!

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the phrase: “Rejoice in the Lord!”?
2. Why does Paul say that this command and his writings are “safe” for his readers? Safe in what way?
3. What role does discernment play in our ability to rejoice in the Lord? Why is discernment necessary?
4. Why do we find it hard to rejoice in the Lord? What things distract us from doing this? What unique problems were the believers at Philippi facing? Do you deal with anything similar?
5. What is the fruit or result of rejoicing in Christ? What will it produce in our lives?