

# Joy-Full Living: Press On toward the Prize

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – October 8, 2023

## Philippians 3:1-17

1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. 2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh- 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained. 17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

To safeguard your joy, you should...

## **1. PASSIONATELY PURSUE CHRIST**

### Philippians 3:7-8, 10-11

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ... 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his

resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

To safeguard your joy, you should...

## **2. CLOSE THE DOOR ON THE PAST**

### Philippians 3:13

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.

To safeguard your joy, you should...

## **3. FOLLOW THE RIGHT CROWD**

### Philippians 3:17

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

### Proverbs 16:29

Wickedness loves company-and leads others into sin. (TLB)

To safeguard your joy, you should...

## **4. FINISH STRONG**

### Philippians 3:14

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### Hebrews 12:1-2

1... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...

### Acts 20:24

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

### 2 Timothy 4:6-8

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.