

Prayer

Your Life Group, and all of the others meeting this week, are the prayer meetings of our church. How cool is that!

Please spend time praying for each other and our church.

Pray for opportunities to share the hope of Christ with others.

Each other:

Church

- *Easter service is coming!*
- *Volunteers for youth ministry and children's ministry*
- *Pastors, Staff and Leadership*
- *Stampede and Round Up*
- *God to provide the financial resources we need.*
- *Life Groups meeting around the area this week*



Did I Stutter—Rejoice!

Bob Kennedy March 12, 2017

Getting Started

When was the last time, or what was the last thing, you really celebrated?

Walking Through the Text. Read Philippians 3:1-6

This letter that we call Philippians is also sometimes referred to as Paul's letter of joy. It is referred to that way, because joy is a major theme in this letter and Paul keeps bringing joy and rejoicing up, again and again.

In our opening verse, Paul doesn't feel bad about bringing rejoicing up again. What does Paul mean by "rejoice in the Lord?" How is that different than other types of rejoicing?

Paul doesn't feel bad about bringing rejoicing up again, because he says that rejoicing in the Lord is a "safeguard" for Christians? Why is rejoicing in the Lord a safeguard for Christians? What does it guard and what does it keep us safe from?

Read Galatians 2:11-21. The Law was not followed by a Jewish person to become part of the people of God. A Jewish person believed that they were born into the covenant people of God. Circumcision, eating kosher and obeying purity rules were marks that showed the world that a Jewish person was part of the people of God. These marks also showed that Gentiles were not! Some Jewish Christians referred to as "The circumcision group" were Jewish Christians who raised havoc in the early church. They were teaching that Gentile Christians needed to become Jews in order to be truly the people of God. They believed that only Jews were God's people and God's children. They were all Christians but they wouldn't even eat the Lord's Supper together because Jews wouldn't eat with Gentiles. This is so wrong for the church, and this is not the gospel. Why is this wrong? Why is this contrary to the gospel? Can you think of some scripture passages that speak to this?

This particular issue is not such a problem for us today. But the underlying issue of adding something to our salvation, or doing some legal requirement to demonstrate that we are part of the people of God is still around. What do we face today that Paul would tell us to watch out for?

How will rejoicing safeguard us from that kind of thinking too?

Application

Rejoice in the Lord today. Let me say it again—find a place and really rejoice in Jesus.