

# "MULTIPLIED JOY"

UNSHACKLED: JOY BEYOND CIRCUMSTANCES | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | PHILIPPIANS 4:4-23  
FEBRUARY 10/11, 2018

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)*

## Choosing Joy (4:4-7)

The decision for joy

The gentleness of joy with others

The resulting peace in prayer

## Thinking Joy (4:8-9)

The joyful virtues

Practicing virtues that bring joy

The resulting peace in life

## Reciprocal Joy (4:10-23)

Paul's joyful contentment in God (4:10-13)

The Philippians' joyful sharing in suffering (4:14-17)

God's joyful provision for Paul and the Philippians (4:18-20)

Held in grace as the household of faith (4:21-23)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What people in your life bring you the most joy? What is it about them that does that?
2. We conclude our series "Unshackled: Joy Beyond Circumstances" this weekend by looking at Philippians 4:4-23. Ask God to speak to you through His Word, and then, whether on your own or with others, read that portion of Scripture aloud.
3. This part of the letter begins with two groups of imperative statements (4:4-7 and 4:8-9). What is Paul calling the believers to do in verses 4-7?
4. With 4:8-9, Paul echoes the tone of the Greek philosophers, giving it a twist by centering it all in Christ. What sort of mindset does he call his readers to have?
5. Which of these imperative statements do you most relate to? Why?
6. In 4:10-20, Paul gives thanks for the Philippians' kind provision for him delivered by Epaphroditus (see 2:25-29). What characterizes Paul's attitude toward his circumstances and the Philippians' provision? How has God helped him in this?
7. What do you think Paul's words in verse 19 mean in light of his statements in 4:11-12?
8. In what ways do you need to develop contentment even as you look for God's abundant provision in your life?
9. The letter ends with specific greetings, which is always a good reminder that these letters were written by real people to real people. What stands out to you from Paul's final words in 4:21-23?
10. What is one thing you sense God is highlighting in your life through this study? If you are on your own, write it down and pray about it. If you are in a small group, take time to discuss this with one another before praying together.

## FURTHER REFLECTION:

Make Philippians more meaningful in your life this week in some way:

- Consider memorizing a verse or two from this section of the letter. Verses 11, 13, and 19 are favorites to many people.
- As we finish the series on Philippians, take some final time to reflect on what God has been speaking to you:
  - Write some summary thoughts in your journal or in a letter to yourself
  - Meet with a friend or give them a call to talk about what God is teaching you through Philippians
  - Send an encouraging note to someone you know, perhaps including a verse or two from Philippians