

### III. EASTER JOY IS RECEIVED BY **BELIEVING**

Illustration: The Philippian Jailor and his family (Acts 16:25-34).

*“25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

*26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.*

*27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.*

*28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”*

*29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.*

*30 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*

*31 So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*

*32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.*

*33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.*

*34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.”*

*9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

*13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*

Romans 10:9-10, 13

**GO BEYOND HAPPINESS AND CHOOSE #JOY**

### # JOY Beyond Happiness The Joy Of Easter Pastor Steve Reynolds

#### INTRODUCTION

- A.** Have you lost your joy in a negative world? God is the source of true joy. No matter what circumstances you face, He will provide extreme joy in your life!
- B.** The book of Philippians is my favorite book of the Bible because it is a:
1. **Personal** Book – It reveals a lot about the apostle Paul.
  2. **Practical** Book – It deals with relevant issues.
  3. **Positive** Book – It focuses on joy.
- C.** In this powerful study of the book of Philippians, you’ll discover the difference between happiness and joy, and how you can experience the lasting joy that God wants for your life.
- |        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| TODAY  | The Joy Of Easter                     |
| Apr 28 | Building Joyful Relationships         |
| May 5  | Finding Joy Through Suffering         |
| May 12 | Experiencing Joy When You’re Stressed |
| May 19 | The Secret Of Joy In Conflict         |
| May 26 | The Daily Joy Workout                 |
| Jun 2  | The Keys To Eternal Joy               |
| Jun 9  | The Joy Of Doing Right                |
| Jun 16 | Discovering Joy Through Service       |
| Jun 24 | The Joy Of Generous Living            |

- D. Text:** Philippians 4:4 (Pew Bible/Page 202/New Test.)

## THE JOY OF EASTER

### I. EASTER JOY IS BEYOND HAPPINESS

*“5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.*

*6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, “*  
I Thessalonians 1:5-6

#### HAPPINESS

VS.

#### JOY

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| ● External      | ● <u>Internal</u> |
| ● Chance        | ● <u>Choice</u>   |
| ● When And Then | ● <u>Hope</u>     |
| ● Circumstances | ● <u>Christ</u>   |

Joy Definition: Joy is an internal choice of hope based on my belief in Jesus Christ.

*“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”* John 15:11

*“This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.”* Psalm 118:24

### II. EASTER JOY IS BASED ON THE RESURRECTION

*“1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.*

*2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.*

*3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.*

*4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.*

*5 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.*

*6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

*7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”*

*8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.”* Matthew 28:1-8

*“12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?*

*13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.*

*14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.*

*15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.*

*16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.*

*17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!*

*18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*

*19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*

*20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, ...”*

I Corinthians 15:12-20a