

III. **COMMIT** YOUR LIFE TO FOLLOWING JESUS
(3:13-16)

A. **Forget** the former (v13a).

“18 Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.”

Isaiah 43:18-19

B. **Focus** on the future (v13b).

“15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

Ephesians 5:15-17

C. **Fight** to the finish (v 14-16).

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”

Matthew 25:21

“But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

Acts 20:24

GO BEYOND HAPPINESS AND CHOOSE #JOY

JOY
Beyond Happiness
The Keys To Eternal Joy
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!

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

Philippians 4:4

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

- B. The book of Philippians is my favorite book of the Bible:

1. It is a **personal** book that reveals a lot about Paul.
2. It is a **practical** book that deals with relevant issues.
3. It is a **positive** book that 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.

Apr 21	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
TODAY	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 3:1-16 (Pew Bible/Page 205/New Test.)

THE KEYS TO ETERNAL JOY

I. ADMIT THAT YOU NEED JESUS FOR SALVATION (3:1-8)

A. Paul's serious **caution** (vs 1-3).

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." Colossians 2:8

B. Paul's religious **credentials** (vs 4-6).

Definition Of Religion: Substituting human works for faith in Christ as the way to heaven.

Four examples of religion. Trusting in...

- **Rituals** (v5a)
- **Race** (v5b)
- **Rules** (v5c)
- **Reputation** (v6)

C. Paul's spiritual **confession** (vs 7-8).

Salvation has nothing to do with who you are or what you have done. It rests solely on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

"But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away." Isaiah 64:6

*"4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,
5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,
6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* Titus 3:4-7

II. BELIEVE IN JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR (3:9-12)

A. Paul's **saving** faith in Christ (v9).

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

B. Paul's **growing** faith in Jesus Christ (vs 10-12).

*"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."* II Peter 3:18

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

- Have a **personal** desire to grow (v 10a).
- Have a **powerful** desire to grow (v10b).
- Have a **painful** desire to grow (v 10c).
- Have a **perfect** desire to grow (vs 10d-12).