

# PHILIPPIANS: A GUIDE TO TRUE JOY

Chapter 1:1-11 Confident in Christ

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# THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

- In the world: health, wealth, success
- In religion: pride or despair



# THE FAILURE OF THE WORLD AND RELIGION

- Antidepressants have become the most commonly prescribed drugs in the (western world) United States.
- 1.2 million people in NL use antidepressant medications. This is more than ever. (2021)
- In NL 1 in 7 of working people experience burn-out complaints (=1.3 million people). This is more than ever (2022)



# THE FAILURE OF THE WORLD AND RELIGION

- In NL: specialist mental care: each year 500.000 patients (800.000 are on waiting list)
- Mental basic care via JP and help through ggz: each year 800.000 treatments
  - Depressions
  - Suicidal
  - Sexual issues (abuse/gender confusion)
  - Drugs/alcohol





WE NEED A DIFFERENT PLACE TO FIND TRUE JOY!

➤ The big theme in Philippians is JOY



# PHIL. 1:1-2

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Christ: our Lord and Saviour
- servants: not if but to what or who
- saints: put it on your CV
- grace and peace



# CHURCH AFFILIATION

- In NL about 25% of the populations says to be church affiliated. But a tiny % is actually involved and knows the basics of the Christian beliefs.
- We all probably know someone who claims to be a Christian who's actually not



# CONFIDENT IN CHRIST

- We can be confident that Jesus lived, died, resurrected and ascended so we can be reconciled with God.
- But how can I be confident that I am a Christian? That god is at work in me and that I am actually saved?





# PHIL. 1:3-6

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



# PHIL. 1:3-6

- Paul was not confident in them but in Christ!
- Paul, who was in chains, was confident that God is in control, even when things don't go according to plan
- Ever longed for something you really wanted and didn't get or something you got that you really didn't want?



# PHIL. 1:3-6

- If we're not careful it can cripple us with regret, anger or bitterness
- Paul discovered a saving truth: God in His goodness has other plans towards something better.
- If things had gone according to Paul's plans, the Philippians might have never heard the Gospel (Acts 16)
- Simo Ralevic (Serbia)



# PHIL. 1:3-6

- The greatest evil, killing Jesus, led to the greatest salvation and victory ever!
- When God has a plan, nothing can stop Him: 'He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion'



# HOW CAN WE KNOW GOD STARTED GOOD WORK IN US?

- 'partnership in the gospel'
- The Philippians didn't only believe the Gospel, they were living it out!
  - Lydia (Acts 16)
  - The jailer (Acts 16)
  - They send out Epafroditus (2:25)
  - They contributed financially (4:14-16)



# HOW CAN WE KNOW GOD STARTED GOOD WORK IN US?

- The love they received from Christ was overflowing to others.
- Paul also longed for the Philippians with the affections of Christ – verse 8
- Are we? Are you?
  - We can be confident that God is working to change us internally if our lives start to reflect this externally. (not religion but love)



# LOVE CHRIST BUT NOT THE CHURCH?

Paul would have little confidence

But if God is doing all the work in me, why bother?

Paul would say that it is *because* God is at work in you that you have a responsibility to respond!



# PHIL. 1:9-11

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.





# PHIL. 1:9-11

- To grow in knowledge and discernment
- So that...
  - your love may abound more and more
  - you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.



# BE CONFIDENT IN CHRIST!

John 10:27-28

