

M A Y 3 1 & J U N E 1 , 2 0 0 3

WHISTLING IN THE DARK

The Book of Philippians

Matt Heard, Senior Pastor

Part 12: Mirror of Maturity

Philippians 3:15-16

For most of us, getting our circumstances just right is one of our main preoccupations. Why? Because most of us believe the only place we'll be able to find joy is in the midst of ideal circumstances—when everything, or almost everything, is going our way. As a result, since we live in a world full of difficult or puzzling circumstances and events, we end up assuming that satisfying joy is difficult, if not impossible, to come by.

Paul's letter to the believers in the city of Philippi delivers a lethal blow to that assumption. The book is a powerful portrayal of joy. A major component of its power is the circumstance from which Paul is writing. Many would expect a book about joy in the Bible. But the impact of the message of Philippians is that Paul is writing this letter, about joy, from prison!

Following Jesus Christ and growing in amazement over His grace involves many discoveries. One such discovery is the realization that authentic, abiding joy is Christ-centered and it transcends circumstances. Christ's joy doesn't necessarily mean a smile. His joy can be experienced in the darkest of situations. That is why following Jesus Christ in a fallen world enables us to "whistle in the dark."

In the first chapter of the letter, we discovered that whistling in the dark involves living a life that revolves around Christ. In the second chapter, we found that whistling involves living a life that *reflects* Christ, especially in our relationships with others. In chapter three, we are discovering that *relating* with Christ is another key to being able to whistle when it's dark.

Paul begins chapter three by talking about what relating with Christ is not: it is not about "doing religion" or simply going through outward religious motions. Instead, it's about understanding and pursuing what is ultimately valuable in life: a relationship with the One who created me. That relationship is an amazing adventure that involves a path of intentional growth. It is this path that enables the process of maturity to continue as we journey in our relationship with Him.

(over)

SIGN-UPS

May 31 & June 1, 2003

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

SPLASH INTO SUMMER!

Helping with Kidz at Rockrimmon Community:

- Saturday 5 p.m. 7 p.m.
- Sunday 8:45 a.m. 11 a.m.
- June July August

Helping with Kidz at Liberty Community:

- Sunday 8:45 a.m. 11 a.m.
- June July August
- I'd like to help with set-up and take-down.

I prefer the following age group:

- Birth through Kindergarten
- Elementary 1st/2nd 3rd 4th/5th

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sign me up to help as a:

- Counselor Crafts Leader Crafts Helper
- Snacks Leader Snacks Helper
- I'll help anywhere you need me.

MILITARY DEPLOYMENT:

Name of person currently overseas or being deployed:

Please also complete contact info below.

MY DECISION TODAY:

- I prayed to receive Jesus as my personal Savior.
- I renewed my commitment to Jesus.
- I'd like to declare my faith by being baptized.
- I'd like more information.

If you've made a spiritual decision today, please stop by our Guest Center and pick up a gift to help you in your journey.

PLEASE PRINT

Name

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Work Phone

E-mail address (for church news & updates only)

- Guest Regular Attender Member
- 1st Visit 2nd Visit 3rd Visit New Address

