

## **Characteristics of Christian Joy Philippians 1:1-11**

### I. Introduction:

Joy is not something that depends on circumstances. It is a settled state of contentment, confidence, and hope (John 15:11; 16:22).

### II. Christian joy comes from our relationships with God and fellow believers (vv.1-5; 7-8).

A. The deepest and most enduring joy is found only in God (v.2; Isaiah 55:11; Luke 2:10).

B. The joy we find in God reaches its consummation when it is shared with others (vv.1, 3-5, 7-8; Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

### III. Christian joy is anchored to God's promise (v.6).

A. Believers can be certain of their salvation (Romans 8:29-30).

B. Believers can have comfort in the midst of confusing circumstances (Romans 8:28).

### IV. Christian joy increases over time (vv.9-11).

A. The joy thrives in the context of prayer (John 16:24).

B. The pursuit of joy is a necessary part of all worship and virtue (Luke 11:9-10).