Saturday & Sunday - November 16 & 17, 2019

The Priority of Praise

Paul wanted to go to Rome as a pastor, but went as a prisoner…

Philippians 4:4 (NIV) *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) *6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

- Paul looked at this situation through a perspective of praise.

  Philippians 1:12-13 (NIV) *12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*

This is not the first time Paul was a prisoner...

Acts 16:22 (NIV) The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.

Acts 16:25 (NIV) *About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.*

- They are not praising God for WHAT He has done. They are praising Him for WHO He is.

- Knowing what God has done in the past and what God did not do for Paul in Rome, makes his words "Rejoice in the Lord always" an even more POWERFUL TRUTH.

Paul chooses to see the big picture—the priority of praise...

Acts 16:25-26 (NIV) *25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.*

Additional Notes...

scriptures that relate

Monday: Philippians 1	Wednesday: Philippians 3	Friday: Acts 16
Tuesday: Philippians 2	Thursday: Philippians 4	Saturday: Acts 17

small groups—talk it over

1. Are you optimistic or pessimistic by nature?
2. What is the struggle with rejoice always?
3. What have you been stripped of through tough times?
4. When you think of WHO God is, what attributes come to mind?

pastor jeff's prayer requests

Monday: Pray for our shut-ins and the elderly that cannot join us in the weekend services.

Tuesday: Pray that our church will be a source of light for our community to meet Jesus.

Wednesday: Pray that our children's and youth ministries will draw our students closer to God.

Thursday: Pray for those in our congregation fighting addictions that they lean on Jesus.

Friday: Pray for family and friends who support those fighting addictions.

Saturday: Pray for those who are sick to sense the comfort of the Holy Spirit and healing.