

SMALL GROUP LESSON

THE PRESENT POWER OF OUR FUTURE HOPE

ISAIAH 65:17-25 AND PHILIPPIANS 4:90-13

MARCH 19, 2017

During these past two weeks we have been taking a look at the book of Philippians. Pastor Long has used four key words to help us come to a better understanding of what Paul was saying and how his letter can be applied to our lives in this day and time. The fourth word is "rejoicing." Do you remember the other three and what they mean? Here's a hint. They all begin with the letter "r." Need a little extra help? Check out Pastor Long's sermons on the church's web site.

1. As we think about this week's sermon, let's take a look at two words. The first is "happiness," and the second is "joyfulness." Sometimes they are used interchangeably. But is that correct? Do they have the same meaning or should each of these words be defined in a different way? What do you think?
2. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul uses the word "rejoice" seven different times. Basically this word means "to be full of joy." Take a few moments to locate the seven places where this word is used in the book of Philippians, and then write down the reasons why you think Paul was so full of joy as he wrote this letter.
3. In his sermon, Pastor Long describes three principles of joyfulness that can be found in the book of Philippians. Do you remember what they are and can you describe them in your own words?
4. Now let's do a bit of self examination. On a scale of 1 to 10, one being lowest and ten being the highest, how would you rate your current level of joyfulness? Is it on the higher side of the scale or on the lower side? Based on what Paul says in the book of Philippians, what do you think you can do to improve your level of joyfulness? What steps are you willing to take beginning this week to become a more joyful Christian?