

SUNDAY INTO MONDAY

PORTADOWN
BAPTIST
WORSHIP WALK WITNESS

"Sunday into Monday" is designed to help all of us take away some key points from one of the messages we have heard together as a church family. We all know that it is possible to listen to a sermon, even appreciate it, but appropriating and applying what God says in His word is crucial to our worship of Him and our Christian living.



SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

PASTOR ANDREW ROYCROFT



"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer" - Philippians 1:3-4



JOY IN CHAINS

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-26



Philippians is a book of friendship, fellowship, and joy. The Apostle Paul, writing from prison, engages with and encourages a body of believers whom he knew well and with whom he enjoyed a strong bond. This opening chapter of Philippians centres on true Christian joy, and the privileges and advantages that Paul and his readers have in Christ. Circumstances may not be

ideal for Paul, and life was hard as a Christian in Philippi, but there were so many grounds for rejoicing. Paul is blessed by prayerful partnership, he rejoices through dashed expectations, and he can content himself in whether God gives him longer life or takes him home to heaven. Each of these perspectives from Paul are constructive for our discipleship as well.



FOR REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

- Paul in Philippians shows how mutually dependent Christians are on one another. The little church in Philippi had brought him joy by their partnership and care. How highly do we value connecting with one another? How do we make a priority of it?
- As Paul writes Philippians he is not enjoying the best that life can offer – he is in prison, curtailed in his activities, and kept back from pioneering ministry. Even here he is joyful and prayerful. How do we respond when things don't go our way, or when God's choice of path for us differs from our own? Take time to pray for a patient responsiveness to God's providence in your life.
- Paul's temporal disappointments and pain are underwritten by a guarantee of being 'with Christ – which is far better' should his life come to an end. How confident do we feel about the security of our souls even to death? How can we enliven our hope in heaven so that we might live more fully on earth?

A PRAYER



Almighty God, I thank You for the joy of the verses we have studied today. I thank You for Paul's example of deep gospel connections, submission to Your providence, and his assurance of a home with You when he died. Please help me to prioritise connecting with other believers, to recognise that You can give me joy even when I am disappointed, and to remember that my life is secure in Christ. I thank You that my joy is not conditional – help and teach me to rejoice in You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



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