



Introduction:

- Can I be honest for a moment? Some of the most crotchety people I know are Christians. Why is it that some, who have experienced the saving power of Jesus from sin's penalty and power, are sometimes some of the most miserable people on the planet?
- This question reminds me of a verse I heard years ago:
*To dwell above with the ones I love,
Oh, that will be glory!
But to live below with the saints I know,
Now that's another story!*
- I don't know about you, but sometimes I need to get my joy back! The Christian life is certainly a journey sometimes filled with ups and downs, victories and defeats, accomplishments and failures, and highs and lows. But we need to find joy in the journey!
- If you've noticed that your "joy-o-meter" is in the red zone, then this sermon series is for you! Over the next several weeks, we are going to discover how we can live a life of happiness that circumstances cannot change.
- This morning, we're going to learn that finding joy in the journey of life begins with relationships marked by certain non-negotiable attributes. Ready? Let's dig in!

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:1-2).

The book of Philippians was a letter originally written to the folks who attended the church at Philippi. Whenever I go to the mailbox and find a letter, I immediately want to know three things:

Who Is This From?

*Paul and Timothy, **servants** of Christ Jesus...*

By referring to himself and Timothy as "servants," Paul was exemplifying an attitude of _____.

Who Is This To?

*...to all the **saints** in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, **with** the overseers and deacons:*

By referring to the church members as "saints," Paul was exemplifying a relationship of _____.

And by using the word "with," Paul was teaching a spirit of _____.

What Do They Want?

***Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

You may search the Word of God but you will never find peace first – it is always "grace and peace" never "peace and grace." They are the Siamese twins of the Bible. You cannot have peace until you first have had grace. A man may search and seek until the end of his life, but until he receives grace through Christ, he can never have peace.

David L. Hocking, **How to Be Happy in Difficult Situations**, p. 24