



Introduction:

- In our study of Philippians this morning, *Paul* tells the *Philippians* to rejoice. Now there's an oxymoron if ever I saw one! On a personal level, Paul was in prison. Culturally, being a Christ-follower in the 1st century was treacherous for the Philippians. Yet *he* tells *them* to rejoice!
- We're not too unlike Paul or the Philippians. For many, life stinks right now! And yet the Bible says **REJOICE IN THE LORD**. How can we do that?

Rejoice – meaning:

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Happiness is the world's cheap imitation for the Christian's joy, which is deeply rooted in the _____.

Question: What qualities about God can give me joy in the midst of personal difficulty and cultural oppression?

1. God is _____.

I read that in the Bible. I "get it" in my head. But what does that really mean to me? How does "**God is Sovereign**" bring JOY and help me rejoice when life isn't going so well?

Here's what it means to me. And here's why I have joy.

Nothing is _____ for God.

Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? (Jeremiah 32:27)

Nothing is _____ for God.

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; (Psalm 139:1-2)

2. God is _____.

*Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. **The Lord is at hand** (Philippians 4:5, emphasis added).*

3. God Gives _____.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (v. 7).

Conclusion: