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*Psalms 73:25 (RSV) Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides thee. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

“The only way to peace was once and for all to abandon the way of human achievement and to accept the way of grace.”

William Barclay

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*Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek for me with **all your heart**.*

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Out of disaster and ruin complete,  
Out of the struggle and dreary defeat,  
Out of my sorrow, and burden, and shame,  
Out of the evils too fearful to name,  
Out of my guilt and the criminal’s doom,  
Out of the dread, and the terror, and gloom,  
Into the sense of forgiveness and rest,  
Into inheritance with all the blest,  
Into a righteous and permanent peace,  
Into the grandest and fullest release—  
Into a comfort without an alloy,  
Into a perfect and confident joy.  
Wonderful holiness, bringing to light!  
Wonderful grace, putting all out of sight!  
Wonderful wisdom, devising the way!  
Wonderful power that nothing could stay.

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## Finding Joy in Unexpected Places

Philippians: Finding Joy in Hard Times

*Philippians 3:1-11; November 5, 2018*

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### 1. Rejoice in the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.*

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### 2. Our alternative: finding joy in \_\_\_\_\_.

*Phil. 3:4 Though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more...*

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Our human need for identity:

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Our use of image:

Our use of persona:

*Philippians 3:5 ... circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;*

*Philippians 3:6 ... as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.*

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### 3. Which of the two is really more v\_\_\_\_\_?

*Philippians 3:7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.*

*Philippians 3:8a What is more, I consider everything a loss **compared** to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ...*

*Phil. 3:8b ... for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ.*

*Philippians 3:9 (RSV) ... and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith;*

*Philippians 3:10 ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

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