

## When God Delights in Your Way

### Introduction and Review

- ❑ In recent weeks we have been addressing joy in times of trials.
- ❑ Last week we looked at the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus in all of life's circumstances from Philippians 3:1-11.
- ❑ From these verses we learned that the ultimate goal of every Christian is to grow in relationship with Christ until we get to heaven!
- ❑ Today we'll learn more about the blessed life of a believer in troubling times – applied particularly to men (Father's Day)

### I. The Lord is in Control of Our Circumstances (v. 23-24)

#### A. Our pathway of life is predestined (v. 23)

*The details of a believer's life on earth are not left to chance - "The steps...are established" (Phil. 2:13; Rom. 8:28; Jer. 29:11). As a father finds joy in helping plan his son's future, so God delights in believers & planning our future. God has a specific plan & purpose for every believer!*

#### B. We are strengthened in times of weakness (v. 24)

*Not only does God plan our future, but He is also intimately involved in our daily lives. God knows that His children will have some awful failures & troubles. Like a good father, He knows how much we can bear & helps us to avoid utter destruction (2Co. 4:8-9; Ps. 121:2).*

### II. The Lord Provides Our Needs (v. 25-26)

#### A. Believers are cared for (v. 25)

*Like a good father, God knows His children have needs & He faithfully provides. There may be periods of lacking & times of plenty, but we learn to trust God through experience (Phil. 4:11-13). Our children must learn to trust Him too!*

#### B. Believers care for others (v. 26)

*Believers want to be like God our Father in giving & taking care of others. Believers can give generously because we have learned to trust God completely. Our children are blessed when they trust God & give generously too!*

### III. The Lord Keeps His Promises (v. 27-31)

#### A. God promises eternal security (v. 27-29)

*Like a good father, the Lord keeps his promises. He promises never to forsake the believer throughout all times & eternity. But He expects the believer to persevere & remain faithful in this life – "Turn away from evil and do good".*

#### B. God promises security in this life (v. 30-31)

*A true believer is known by the content of his heart, fruit of his lips & his actions. When God's word & His Spirit fills our hearts, He controls our words & actions. He keeps us from falling headlong into sin (Ps. 119:9, 11).*

**ILL:** My father was a very talented man. He learned to repair vehicles in the military & opened his own shop. When I was old enough, he taught me auto repair. He was a barber & when I was old enough, I learned to cut hair. He bought trucks & equipment for logging, bought a truck for cross-country truck driving, tractors for trenching, gardening, bush hogging, burials, etc.; bulldozer, dump truck & other equipment. At different ages & phases of my life, he exposed me & taught me his craft because he had a vision of the kind of man he wanted me to be. He was patient & when I failed, he encouraged & helped me become a skillful man.

**APPL:** The same is true with us spiritually. Our Father in heaven knows everything; He has unlimited resources to do anything, anytime, anywhere, for anybody. He knows perfectly His plans for our future; when to create desire for change & expose us to opportunities for growth. He knows perfectly how to motivate, encourage, test, teach, guide, correct, provide, protect, deliver, etc. as we become the men & women of God He has planned!

## CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers who are fathers I want to encourage all of us to remember the way God has handled us & let's be more patient, encouraging & helpful to our own children. Not only fathers, but mothers remember the way God has been gracious to you & respond accordingly with your children. Children of all ages should be grateful for all that your parents have done for you to have a fulfilling & rewarding life. Christians of all ages should be grateful that Jesus was willing to make the sacrifice so that we would have God as our Father who control all circumstances in our lives, provides all our needs & keeps all His promises!

If you are not a Christian, you need to know that Jesus made that sacrifice for you too – lived a perfect life, died for your sins & rose from the dead to guarantee you salvation. But you must trust Jesus for your salvation. You must believe in Him for yourself, no one can believe for you. Will you believe today?

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