



CELL GUIDE 2016

Theme	Our Discipleship Journey
Topic	Joy in Ministry Serving and Making a Difference
Speaker	Ps Ng Hua Ken
Date	22nd and 23rd October 2016

Message Summary

Joy in Ministry Serving

Dwight L Moody once said, "There are many of us that are willing to do *great things* for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do *little things*." As followers of Christ, we should be mindful to always serve with a servant-heart, so people around us may see the life of Jesus through us. As we become the servants that God calls us to be, we will find God building our character, and find ourselves in privileged positions where we are able to share the Gospel with those around us.

Four Characteristics in Paul's life

In the book of Philippians, we see how Paul, as a servant of God, served His people joyfully. Paul has four main characteristics which we can learn from:

(1) A Man of Humility (*Philippians 2:3-11*)

Paul was a man who led his life with humility, modelling his life after that of Jesus. Jesus was God and He had the power to do anything, or be anyone. Yet He chose to come down to Earth as a man, lowering Himself to the status of a bond-servant. Jesus did this in humility, choosing to submit to the will and purposes of God; Jesus was obedient to the point of death on the Cross. We should, similarly, learn to place God first above all things and put others ahead of ourselves. It is in this posture of humility that we find God taking care of our needs supernaturally.

(2) A Man of Passion (*Philippians 3:7-10*)

Paul's passion was for God and His people – that they would come to know the Father through him. In the Bible, we are reminded that eternal life is found in knowing God, and trusting Him to guide and lead us in all we do. God's desire has always been for His children to come to Him and know Him intimately. The more we come to know God, the more secure we will be in who we are.

(3) A Man of Abundant Joy (*Philippians 3:1, 4:4*)

Paul had abundant joy because he saw God in all the difficult situations he went through. Witnessing the Philippian believers unite in one purpose to serve the Lord, and knowing that he had made a difference in their lives made Paul glad, as he was reminded of God's wish for all to come and know Him intimately. When Paul met with



CELL GUIDE 2016

difficult times, the love and care shown to him by the Philippian believers brought Paul joy, as he saw the people storing up treasures in Heaven for themselves. Even as people became envious/jealous of his relationship with God, Paul remained joyful because he realised that whatever their motivation may be, the Gospel would be preached in the process.

(4) A Man of Contentment (*Philippians 4:10-13*)

As C S Lewis reminds us, we should never let our happiness depend on something we may lose. As children of God, we must learn to be contented in all things, trusting in the character of God to provide and care for us. Paul's contentment was built on an eternal perspective to life – he knew eternal life was far more important than life on earth. As Christians, eternal life awaits us. Thus, all that we do with our lives today is merely preparation for all eternity.

Conclusion

It is not too late to start preparing for our eternal lives. God's wish is for us to turn to Him and to know Him intimately. As Paul has demonstrated through the book of Philippians, to be a man of God involves being a man of *humility*, a man of *passion*, a man of *abundant joy* and a man of *contentment*. These four characteristics define the true followers of Christ, who serve Him in joy.



CELL GUIDE 2016

Questions

1. Which of the four characteristics which Paul talked about in the book of Philippians do you most exhibit in your life? Which of the four do you most struggle with?

(Fill In Answer Here)

2. What “great things” or “little things” have you been called to do for God? Share your experience with the obstacles you may have had to overcome, and what you gained from the process.

(Fill In Answer Here)

3a. What does “eternity” mean to you?
3b. What will you do today to make your life count for eternity?

(Fill In Answer Here)



CELL GUIDE 2016
