

## Joy in the Journey Mar. 29 '09

### Phil. 1:1-19

Living Way is listener supported. Are you listening to Jesus? Tithing is seedtime and harvest. If you want a harvest you have to plant the seed. We all want a harvest. We all want to be blessed. The key to being blessed is to give to the Lord; He is no man's debtor. You cannot out give Him. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse and your harvest will be abundant. **Mal. 3:10**

The Philippian church had a special place in Paul's heart. They ministered to his needs time and again without being asked and without question. They were attentive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Paul was committed to the Gospel; it was his message. It comes to the surface often. Jesus was his motivation and means. Jude speaks of a great falling away in the end times because people who follow God don't like what the Word has to say to them so they find someone who will say what they want to hear. Tithe teaching is a good example, it doesn't tickle the ear so many people turn away and won't listen. The world won't tell you to tithe, some churches are afraid to teach it because it will upset and turn some people away. Jesus was not afraid to let some walk away. The truth remains the truth; tithing brings blessings. Have you left your old habits and traditions and cleaved to Jesus in order to bring in the sheaves? Some of us are not seeing the harvest because we will not leave them behind and commit 100% to Jesus even though we claim to be His followers.; we just carry on doing what we've always done. Are we afraid of what He might ask of us? Leaving our ways and cleaving to His will bring the sheaving, the harvest. This is about prayer. Life is what we are alive to. What makes you come alive, sports, money, possessions? May Jesus be what makes us come alive. The world says, "The end justifies the means". For Christians Jesus is both the end and the means (plus a lot more). The end result of Paul's letter is love. He calls the Philippians to mind and gets excited. They touch his heart and he prays for them. Circumstances don't dictate our joy level. Paul had joy despite the fact that he was in prison. Jesus makes that possible. Get excited!! Rejoice in the Lord. You don't have to rejoice in your circumstances; when you are in the Lord you can rejoice always. We are saved, hell is no longer our destination, heaven is our home, rejoice saint!! **2 Cor. 10:5** Take captive every thought and make it obedient to Jesus Christ. Can't forgive, can't tithe, can't love? Can't or won't? Take that thought captive and make it obedient to Jesus. I can forgive, I can tithe, I can love. It starts in your mind and moves to your heart and ends up in your prayers. Paul had the Philippians in his mind in verses 1-6, in his heart in v. 7-8 and that lead to his prayers. We pray for people when they come to mind because they are in our hearts. Joy in the journey come when you put Jesus first **O**thers second and **Y**ourself last. Do you seek Jesus first or last in regards to your plans and dreams in your day to day? **3 John 1:4** Have you been faithful to walk in what you understand Jesus to have taught you?