



# Philippians

## For the Church of 2021

LifeSavers Class  
August 1, 2021  
Pat McRight



## Second Missionary Journey Acts 15-18 ~AD 49-51





## Acts 16:6-7

- <sup>6</sup> They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia;
- <sup>7</sup> and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;



## Acts 16:9-10

<sup>9</sup> A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

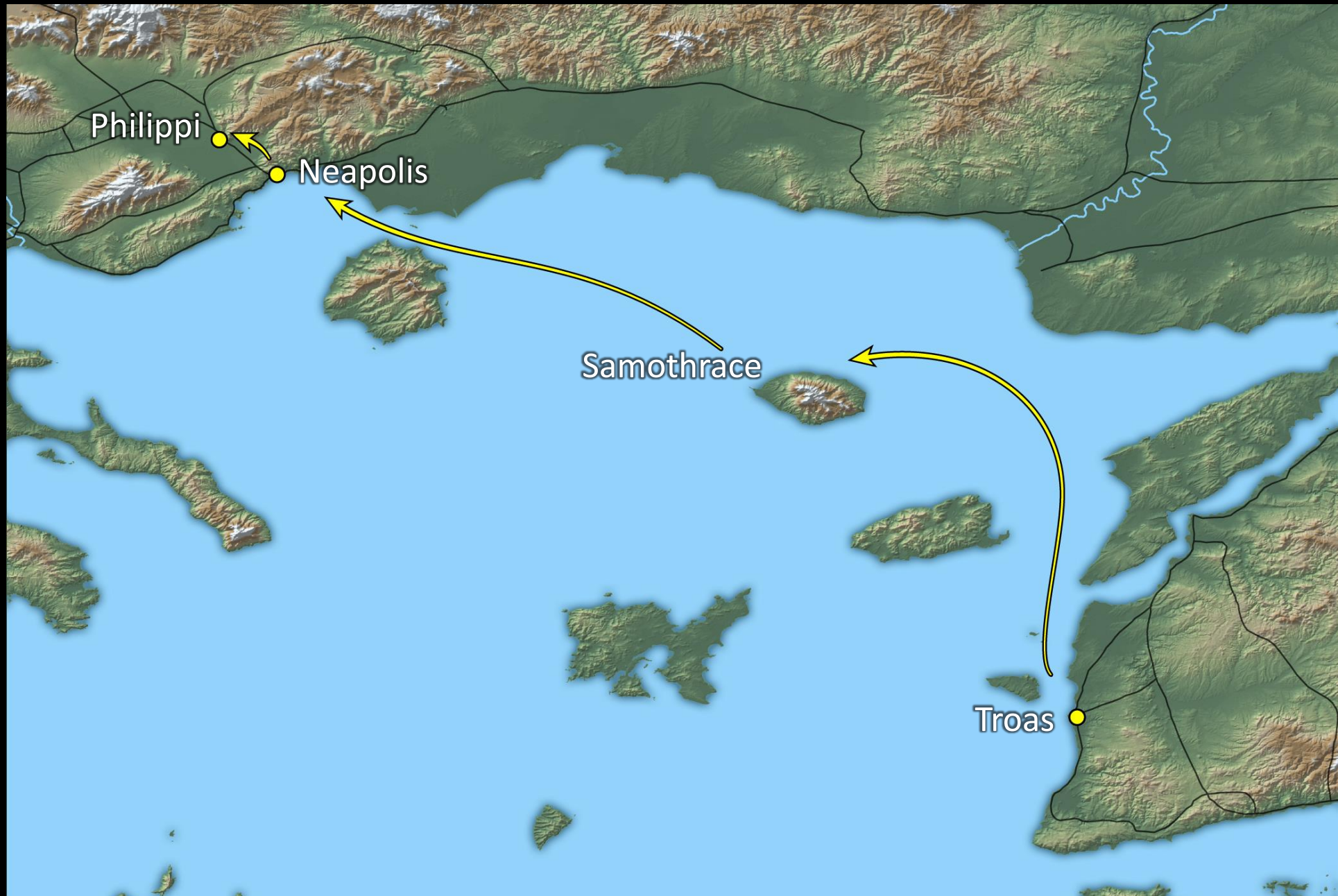
<sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia....



Ultimate

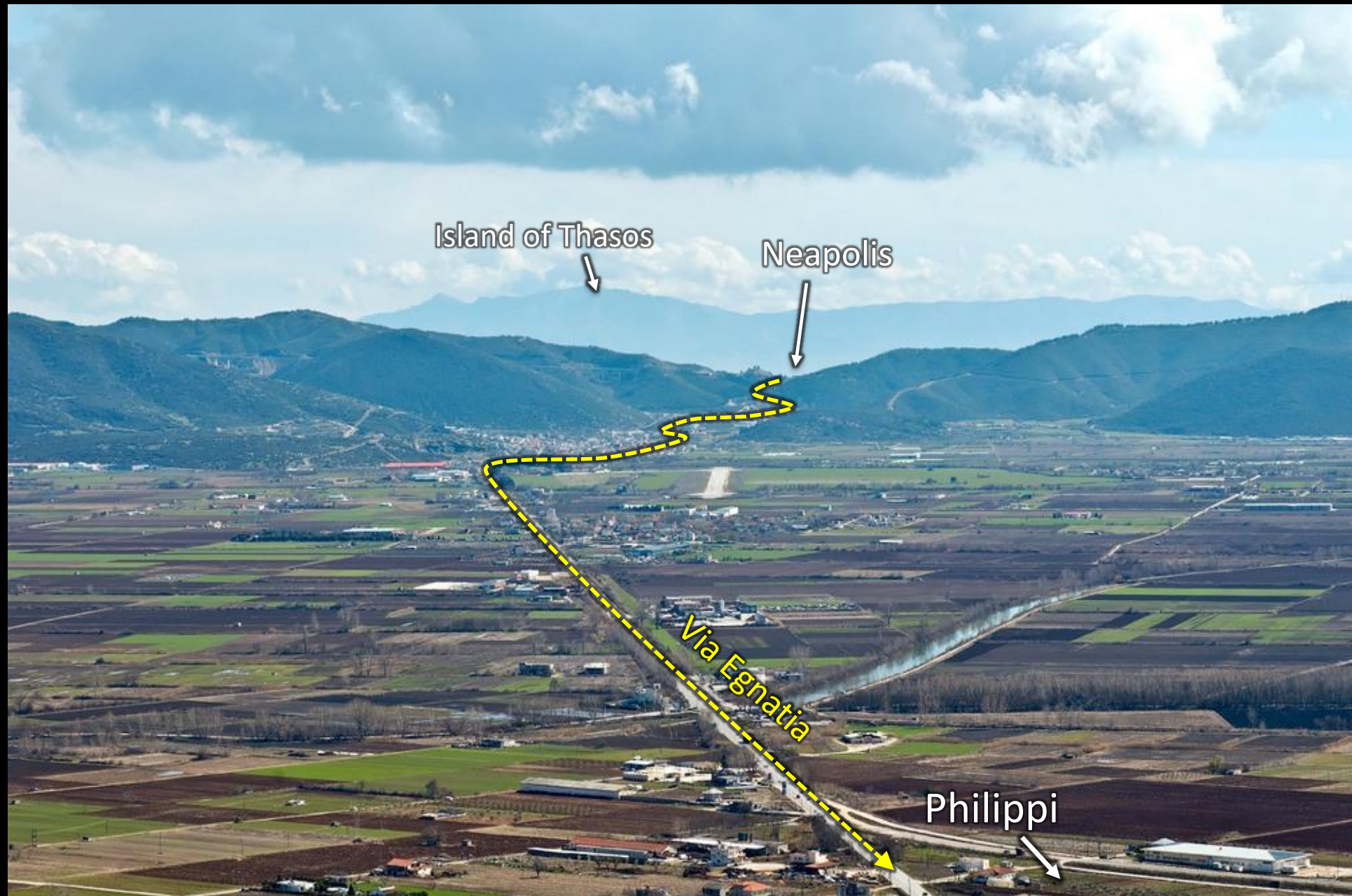


*Setting sail from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day to Neapolis*





*And from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia*



View from Philippi, south toward Neapolis





Philippi plain of Brutus and Cassius' defeat (42BC)



*And from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia*



Theater at Philippi, with a view southeast towards Neapolis



*And from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia*



Acropolis of Philippi (from the west)





Krenides River, possible place of Lydia





Philippi traditional prison of Paul exterior



## Second Missionary Journey Acts 15-18 ~AD 49-51





## Third Missionary Journey Acts 18-21 ~AD 54-57





Two Years Ago in Caesarea



Paul in Prison



# Paul's Journey to Rome Acts 27 ~AD 59-60







Paul is under house arrest in Rome, in his own rented quarters.

He receives and teaches guests but cannot leave, awaiting trial before Caesar.

This imprisonment lasts for two years.

Acts 28:30-31





# Paul's Memories of Philippi

- Thwarted plans and mysterious vision
- Auspicious Arrival
- Lydia and her household, her hospitality
- The slave girl
- A good beating and a night in prison
- The jailor's midnight baptism
- A worn-out welcome
- A second visit





# Getting Inside Paul's Mind...

- His mission seems hindered
- His name and reputation are in question
- His star seems to have fallen
- He is hungry, needy, disgraced
- He is waiting. And waiting.
- He is being slandered and cannot defend himself in public or confront his opponents.

And yet he writes of...**JOY!**



## Philippians 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

<sup>4</sup> always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

*“Joy” and “rejoicing” appear in  
15 of Philippians’ 104 verses.*





# What IS Biblical Joy?

- It is NOT...
  - Obnoxious, misplaced laughter and silliness.
  - Fake happiness.
  - A plastic smile.
  - Insensitive platitudes.
  - Refusal to acknowledge setbacks.
  - A refusal to mourn, grieve, lament.
  - An inability to experience sadness.



# Isaiah 51

NASB

<sup>3</sup> Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places. And her wilderness He will make like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in her, Thanksgiving and sound of a melody.

<sup>4</sup> “Pay attention to Me, O My people, And give ear to Me, O My nation; For a law will go forth from Me, And I will set My justice for a light of the peoples.





# Isaiah 51

NASB

- <sup>5</sup> “My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth,  
And My arms will judge the peoples; **The coastlands will  
wait for Me, And for My arm they will wait expectantly.**
- <sup>6</sup> “Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth  
beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth  
will wear out like a garment And its inhabitants will die in  
like manner; But **My salvation will be forever, And My  
righteousness will not wane.**





# Isaiah 51

NASB

- <sup>7</sup> “Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, A people in whose heart is My law; **Do not fear the reproach of man, Nor be dismayed at their revilings.**
- <sup>8</sup> “For the moth will eat them like a garment, And the grub will eat them like wool. **But My righteousness will be forever, And My salvation to all generations.”**







**“Thanksgiving  
and the sound  
of a melody”**



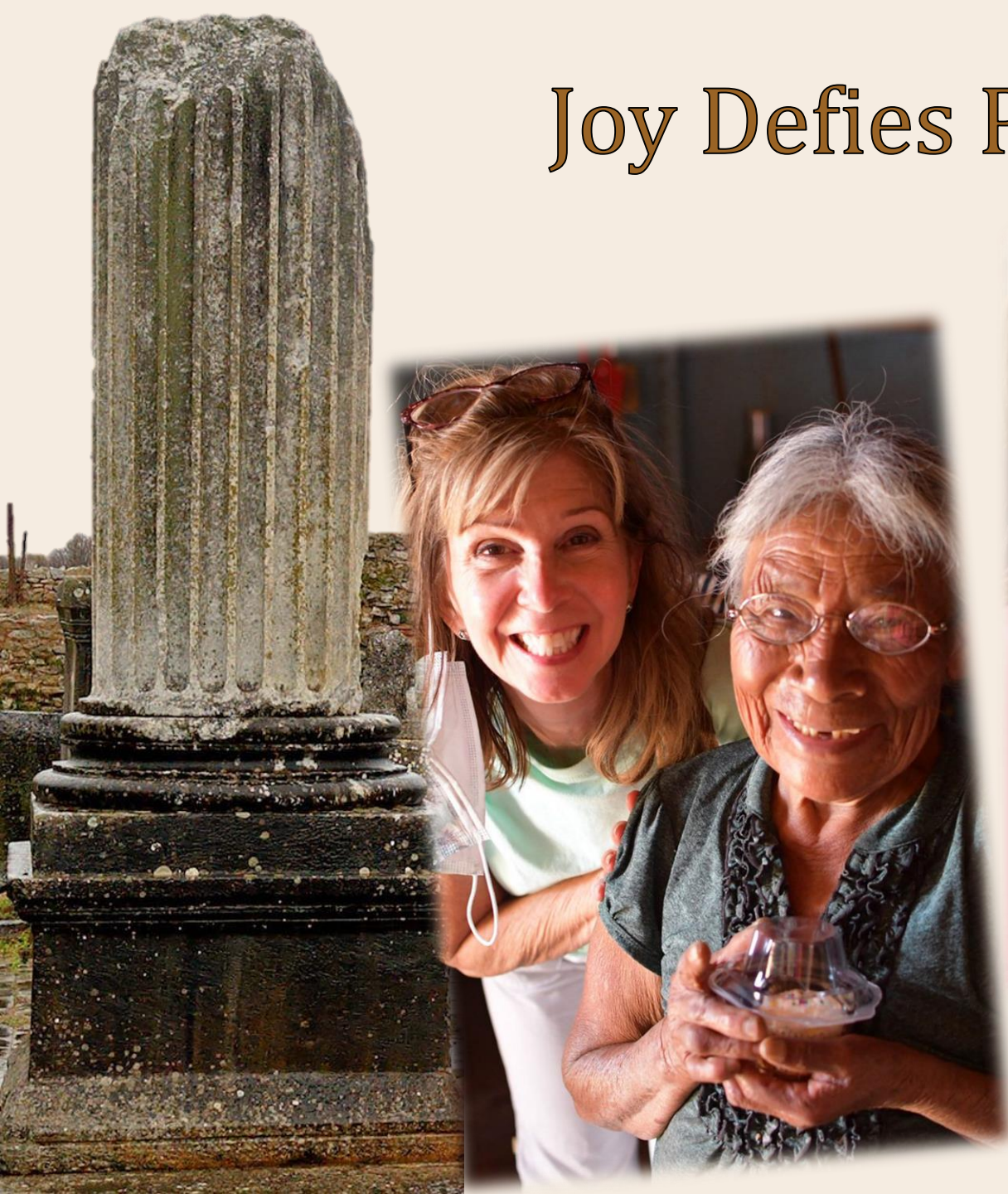


# Biblical Joy IS...

- Jubilation
- A noun (Joy) and a verb (Rejoice!)
- A product of the Holy Spirit in us (Gal 5:19)
- Confidence in God's faithfulness
- Perspective
- Thanksgiving and the sound of a melody that flows through every circumstance.



# Joy Defies Poverty







# The Generous Poor at Philippi...

## 2 Corinthians 8:1–4 (NASB95)

<sup>1</sup> Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

<sup>2</sup> that in a great ordeal of affliction **their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.**

<sup>3</sup> For I testify that according to their ability, and **beyond their ability**, they gave of their own accord,

<sup>4</sup> **begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,**



# Joy Defies Suffering, Circumstances

Job showed us lament,  
faithfulness, tenacity



Paul shows us all this  
plus Christian Joy.



# Philippians 1:12-18

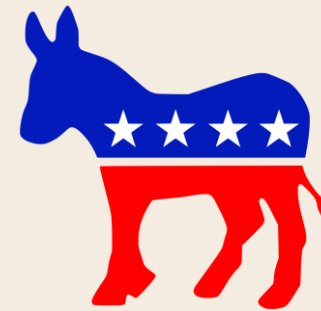
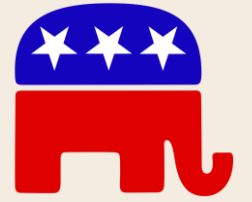
- <sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out **for the greater progress of the gospel**,
- <sup>13</sup> so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has **become well known** throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,
- <sup>14</sup> and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, **have far more courage** to speak the word of God without fear.
- ...
- <sup>18</sup> ...whether in pretense or in truth, **Christ is proclaimed**; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,





# Our Situation...

- Cultural decay
- Moral decline
- Political hostility
- Constant conflict
- Global pandemic
- Economic threats
- 24/7 Negative news
- Constant change
- Worries
- Apatheism replacing Atheism







# Apatheism 2021

- Apathy toward “God questions”
  - Your truth vs. mine
  - “You do you.”
  - “My tradition.”
- Thrives in affluent, distracted societies.
- Thrives on luxuries, diversions.
- Tends to end in cynicism, disillusionment.





# The most successful approach...

- Authentic joy
- What gives you joy?
- What if that went away?





# The Time Has Come to

- Rekindle a Kingdom viewpoint in our hearts
  - Our Priestly Calling (1 Peter 2:9)
  - God's faithfulness (1 Cor 1:9)
  - The inbreaking Kingdom
  - Our battle against dark forces (Eph 6:12)
  - Self examination



## 2 Corinthians 13:5a

ESV

**Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.**







# Self-Examination

- Am I living like an authentic disciple?
- Would my words, my life, my testimony lead someone to see Jesus? If not, why not?
  - Sin?
  - Spiritual Starvation?
  - Fellowship Starvation?
  - Unbelief?
- In need of renewal?



## Psalm 51:10-12

- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O  
God, And renew a steadfast  
spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from  
Your presence And do not  
take Your Holy Spirit from  
me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your  
salvation And sustain me with  
a willing spirit.







## We are Warriors (Eph 6:10-20)

- Warriors do not hide in the barracks on the day of battle and grumble.
  - They go to the battlefield.
  - They fight.
  - They search for the wounded.
- The brutality of our enemy causes his soldiers to defect!
  - We must find them.





## Next...

- Explore Philippians in more depth.
- Identify clear paths to deeper, more authentic joy.
  - To fulfill our own joy!
  - To fulfill our mission!



# 1 Peter 2:9

NASB

<sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;







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