**Sermon Outline – June 26, 2016**

1. **“Lessons in Philippians – the New Testament Letter of Joy”** by Pastor Gary London

Temporary joy is a feeling; it comes from external circumstances (happiness).

Lasting joy is an attitude – a choice to partner with the Holy Spirit; it comes from internal decisions.

Nehemiah 8:10, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.”

1. Lesson # 1: Keep a grateful heart.

Philippians 1:3-18 (I will continue to rejoice.)

*Gratitude feeds joy.*

Psalm 34:1, “I will bless the Lord at all times.”

We must exercise our will to rejoice and choose to be grateful.

1. Lesson # 2: Focus on the hope of your eternal future.

Philippians 1:20 – 2:17 (We must have the same attitude Jesus had.)

*Hope feeds joy.*

Hebrews 12:2, “For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross.”

We must change our focus and decide to have an eternal perspective.

1. Lesson # 3: Pursue Jesus.

Philippians 3:1-18 (I want to gain Christ / to know Christ.)

*Jesus feeds joy*.

Psalm 9:2, “Lord, I will be filled with joy because of You.”

We must delight in Jesus and determine to be desperate for Him.

1. Lesson # 4: Intimate friendship with Jesus in prayer.

Philippians 4:4-7 (Don’t worry about anything; pray about everything.)

*Prayer intimacy feeds joy*.

Psalm 16:1, “In God’s presence is fullness of joy.”

We must stay in God’s presence and enjoy on-going communion with Him.

1. Lesson # 5: Study God’s Word and do it.

Philippians 4:8-9 (Keep putting into practice all that you’ve learned and received from Him.)

*Studying and doing God’s Word feeds joy.*

Jeremiah 15:16, “I discovered Your words & I devoured them. They are my joy & my heart’s delight.”

We must come into agreement with God and obey His Word.

1. Lesson # 6: God + nothing else is enough. Be content in Him.

Philippians 4:11-19 (God takes care of me.)

*Godly contentment feeds joy.*

Habakkuk 3:17-19, “Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails & the fields lie empty & barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation.”

We must be childlike, confidently trusting our Lord, at peace in His provision and promise.