

## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> August 6, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> Philippians 2: 1-18
<b>Topic:</b> Rejoicing In The Lord – Enjoying Confidence	

We all know of the popular refrain, “*rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.*” The question though is whether this sentiment is a seasonal one or is practiced in all circumstances of life. In this portion of Philippians, Paul looks at the idea of rejoicing as one who has seen both good and bad times himself. Philippians reveals the depth of the relationship between Paul and the church, with the chapter highlights the foundation, the focus and the force driving this relationship

*Verses 1-2* point out a reason to rejoice as a result of our salvation in Christ. With such salvation, we:

- are helpers of God
- are part of the household of God
- receive harmony from God

We rejoice because of where we stand, that place being that of God’s people. This of course comes by rebirth in Christ.

Solidarity in Christ is another reason has pointed out in *verses 3-11*. Here Paul speaks of celebration due to partnership in Christ (*verses 3-5*), confidence due to participation in grace (*verse 6*), closeness due to mutual pursuit of God’s plan (*verses 7-8*) and confession of prayer for love to freely grow (*verses 9-11*). There is cause for rejoicing because of with who we stand, attained through a godly partnership.

*Verses 12-18* speak of the reason for rejoicing because of success in Christ. We rejoice because of for who we stand and we ought to rejoice in God’s purpose. Comfort, confidence and celebration through Christ are freely given to the Christian. We need to make the joy of the Lord our strength.

