



## Daily Devotionals

[click here to go to our website – stmatthewsrichmond.org](http://stmatthewsrichmond.org)

### PHILIPPIANS 3:1 REJOICE!

Written by Rev. Dr. Charles D. (Chuck) Alley, Ph.D., Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Va.

*<sup>1</sup>Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.*

The bottom line of the Gospel is to rejoice in our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the One who is both the source and consummation of our joy. He is the believer's ultimate and eternal pleasure. The fulfillment that comes from total obedience and dependence upon Jesus is beyond any that we can experience from anything else. It is a fulfillment that is so complete that that we can know a spiritual pleasure that can only be expressed as absolute joy. This is the reconciled relationship that Jesus makes available to us and his Spirit empowers us to receive. It is the original relationship we were created to have with God, and therefore, provides the absolute contentment we were meant to enjoy. In Jesus we can be all we were meant (by God) to be.

So, when St. Paul urges us to “*rejoice in the Lord,*” he is calling us to live into our faith and live out the promises that God has made to us. And, this is a message that bears repeating because we live in a world that is sinful, cynical and full of sorrow. As we look within or seek fulfillment from the things of the world, all we find is emptiness and suffering – even when we have succeeded in attaining what we are looking for. In contrast, the witness of the Saints is that when we depend upon Jesus we can know joy and fulfillment even in the midst of suffering. For when we have faith in Jesus we have our treasure in heaven where moth and rust and thief cannot reach it (Luke 12:32-34).

Such a focus on Jesus comes as we rejoice in him under all circumstances. We need to remember that and repeat it over and over again throughout our days, weeks, months and years, for it is the ultimate safeguard against the folly of searching for happiness in the Vanity Fairs of this world.

***May my life be characterized by the joy of being your disciple, O Lord. Hide me in your love, Lord Jesus, and keep me from running off after every attractive opportunity I see. May I have eyes only for you and come to know the joy that knows no limit because you are its limitless source. Amen.***

[stmatthewsrichmond.org](http://stmatthewsrichmond.org)