**Blueprint of Philippians**

 **Philippians**

 Philippians can be described as the most joyful book in the Bible. The disciple Paul uses the Greek terms for joy in more than 100 verses. Despite being in prison in Rome, he describes his feelings as being joyous even though most people may find the conditions of imprisonment contradictory.

 The first chapter in Philippians talks about joy in suffering. Chapter 1, verse 7 exemplifies this heading by describing how Paul is happy about the suffering he is going through as a result of defending and confirming the word of God. He also feels that despite the torment others place him through, he is still joyous about them since they all share in God's grace.

 In Chapter 1, verse 13, he emphasizes that everyone within and outside the palace understands that he is in chains because of preaching the word of God, and he does not mind. In Chapter 1, verse 14, the heading is exemplified when he states that many people have become confident in God; thus, they can proclaim the word without fear. This emphasizes the joy he gets despite the suffering he is going through.

 Philippians chapter 2 talks about joy in serving. The verses that could be used to exemplify this include verse 14, which urges people to serve without arguing or grumbling so the heart can be pure. It states that this will make people shine among the crooked (Bible, 2019). Verses 6 and 7 states that the son of God did not use his likelihood to God to his advantage. Instead, he preferred to take the nature of a servant since he was made in human likeness.

 Philippians chapter 3 talks about joy in a loss. A verse that exemplifies this is verse 7, in which Paul states that what he previously thought were gains have now turned into a loss for the sake of the gospel. Verse 8 further states that nothing can be compared to knowing Christ, and with him, everything else materialistic is worthless. Verse 19 states that all those who are guided by their selfishness and materialism are doomed. Those who let go of the material possessions to seek Christ have found the ultimate price.

 The final chapter in Philippians talks about finding joy in the Lord. Some of the verses that exemplify this include verse 10, which states that Paul rejoices that the Lord has renewed his concern for him. In verse 18, readers are told how the Lord is pleased when people bring offerings to him since it shows that they value him. Verse 19 states that God meets the needs of those who glorify him accordingly.

 My understanding of joy has been affected since the book urges us to always rejoice in the Lord, even during painful times. When he was crucified, the endurance Jesus went through could be likened to challenges to joy like imprisonment, opponents, disunity, and grumbling. Paul's joy is not dependent on his current situation but on the fact that he will be delivered by the one he truly believes in.

 His emphasis on joy despite the pain he is going through is described as great happiness and pleasure since it is not brought about by the good things that happen in life. The type of joy described can wither the pain, suffering, and condemnation one is going through since it comes from the Lord and the idea that all things will always be sorted with him. The book calls on humanity to rejoice in everything by seeing the current challenges in light of the great blessing provided through Christ. People should also focus on others to ensure they gain the spiritual maturity and contentment required to find joy in the Lord.

 This relates to real life since even though people have a lot to think about, the pressure and pace that characterize life tend to make people gloomy. Most people walk with their heads bowed, and some days or months are difficult to manage. This results in desperation, making people look for joy using different methods, but none of them can create lasting joy. Paul understood that everlasting joy is a result of humble faith in Jesus Christ, being in harmony like his followers, and serving Christ with graciousness. This was the life experienced by the believers from the Philippians, and it should reflect how humanity lives today. People should allow the joy they find in salvation to keep them away from divisions and arguments, thus guiding them into a peaceful relationship with God.

 The book of Philippians is well orchestrated to express joy and gratitude. The meaning of joy and how it differs from happiness is clearly explained in the book since one relies on external situations. True joy is described as a concept that comes from within a person, and it is profound. It creates a sense of strength and contentment, thus making people feel the peace within.

  **Reference**

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. (2019). In *Life application study Bible: New International Version*. Carol Stream, IL.