# JOY TO YOUR WORLD: The Castaway Opportunities

Dr. Matt Shackelford  Central Church  November 19, 2023 Cover Social Media: #JoyToYoutWork When You See Obstacles as Gospel Opportunities, You'll Have Joy to Your World I. Accept the Obstacle as God's Sovereign Plans (12, 13, 14, & 17). Accept the Obstacle as God's Sovereign Plans (12, 13, 14, & 17). Look for ways to transform Obstacles into Opportunities (13-18). Uways that Obstacles can become Opportunities: Uways that Obstacles to Make Contact with the Lost (13). Use Obstacles to Make Contact with the Lost (13). Lose Obstacles to Inspire Courage in the Church (14). Luse Obstacles to Celebrate Competition Preaching Christ (15-18).	PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18	
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#### PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

These questions are for further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help your fight for life change. One of the best ways to grow in the body is by discussing the answers to these questions in a small group. Find one here: <u>www.centralchurch.com/groups</u>

1. What are some of the obstacles that seem to oppose your joy in this season of the year especially? How could the Lord be using those obstacles to bring you into contact with people who do not know the gospel?

2. Paul was courageous in sharing his faith in Jesus Christ. He was so courageous that his passion and zeal for the gospel spread everywhere in Rome. How could your courageous demeanor amid your struggle affect others for the gospel's sake? What would this look like for you?

**3.** It's been observed that the "Bible Belt" has a long history of "slimy ministry" through intentional church splits, sheep-stealing leaders, and opportunistic pastors seeking to build their own kingdom. This selfish motive is not a new development in church history. Paul saw it happening in his day. What perspective does Paul take concerning the competition of preaching Christ around him? How should this help us in our context?

## Quote for the Week. . .

#### Augustine's Confessions:



"How sweet all at once it was for me to be rid of those fruitless joys which I had once feared to lose and was now glad to reject! You drove them from me, You who are the true, the sovereign joy. You drove them from me and took their place, You who are sweeter than all pleasure, though not to flesh and blood, You who outshine all light yet are hidden deeper than any secret in our hearts, You who surpass all honor though not in the eyes of men who see all honor in themselves. At last my mind was free from the gnawing anxieties of ambition and gain, from wallowing in filth and scratching the itching sore of lust. I began to talk to you freely, O Lord my God, my Light, my Wealth, and my Salvation."