

December 27, 2021

Joy in The Journey [Colossians 3:12-17](#)

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord^[a] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Have you ever found yourself so focused and concerned in reaching your next season of life, worrying that you're not where you wanted to be, so much so that you have found you are missing parts of the journey?

I know this is a position I have found myself in many times before. Our modern world continues to paint a picture of what success should look like, and we have dreamed of miracles occurring which would fast-track us to our successes or next steps in life, because then we believe society would declare us accomplished.

What I believe Paul's message to the Colossians is communicating is that the miracles are often found in the journey we are in, transitioning from one season to the next.

We do not need to wait until we reach our next goal to find our joy; it is all around us. Through our most trying times and our tireless efforts, we are able to overcome setbacks and obstacles, becoming transformed through our journey and better prepared for our next.

The joy can be found in the friendships we make, the time spent with loved ones, and this Christmas season we can begin finding more and more of our joy.

Growing up, sports seemed like everything. I once believed I found my joy in the success my team found on the field. When the game was nearing conclusion as time was expiring and a victory was in sight, that was when my teammates and I seemed the happiest. We knew that our hard work was paying off. However, once the game concluded, our attention would quickly switch to the next game.

Looking back, our success or defeat did not determine my true feelings towards the game. Rather, it was the feeling of giving everything I had in contribution to my team and knowing they were doing the same for me, as well as the relationships I had built through this trust. I believe this is very similar to our relationship with Jesus Christ, let us give everything we have to Him and let us rejoice because of it.

***Prayer:** Lord, I pray that we always seek you in our life's journeys, that we give thanks for the opportunities you present us, and that we find the joy in between the seasons. Amen.*

Tyler A. Broadwater
Stout Memorial United Methodist Church, Parkersburg, WV
TylerABroadwater@gmail.com
Core Leadership Team and Board of Higher Education & Campus Ministries