

Rejoice - (Why A Christian Should Be Happy)

Sunday PM 04/21/19

Introduction:

There are a lot of sad people in this world. Have you ever read the book, "Great Expectations?" Talk about somebody being depressed the author needed to lighten up a little. Yet some do face unrealistic expectations and are sad when they do not work out. Others suffer from unfortunate events in their life. Even the holiday season can be a source of anxiety and depression. We need to be reminded of the need for joy in our lives and reasons we have to be joyful, *Eccl. 3.4* speaks of a time to laugh, the churches in the first century were glad and joyful, *Acts 2.46*. What reasons do we as children of God have to be happy?

I. A CHRISTIAN HAS BEEN FORGIVEN FOR EVERY PAST SIN HE / SHE COMMITTED, *ACTS 2.37,38*

- A. We were baptized for the remission of sins, obviously this means before we are baptized our sins are counted or impugned against us but afterward they are not, *Romans 4.6-8***
- B. Paul is apply this to Christians who have received this forgiveness, our greatest debt has been forgiven, image how you would feel if "extreme home makeover" came to your house and your loan was forgiven, our debt of sin is far greater hence its forgiveness is a reason for greater joy.**
- C. We can face God with a good clean conscious.**

II. A CHRISTIAN KNOWS GOD LOVES THEM, *JOHN 3.16*

- A. The "world" includes everybody, you and me.**

- B. How much does God love us? He gave His Son, **1 John 3.1**
- C. Behold - to see, to observe, pay attention to
- D. God counts the Christian as one of His children, part of His household.
- E. Nothing can separate us from His love, **Romans 8.35**
 - 1. Does not mean we can not be lost.
 - 2. We can not say we are lost because God did not love us.

III. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT CONTAINS JOY, GALATIANS 5.22

- A. I appreciate Christians that can laugh, have fun, and show they like being who they are.
- B. We are not at our best when we do not enjoy. The more joy the better we are at life.
- C. We do not convert people to be miserable.
- D. Have you ever asked somebody, "Why are you so happy?" Have you had somebody ask you?
 - 1. We went to a funeral and that was asked of us.
 - 2. Our children need to understand being a Christian does not mean your funny bone was removed at the point of baptism. (Kemuel and Sunshine)

IV. HAPPY TO KNOW I AM A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY, JOHN 1.12

- A. We can turn to the Bible and show what we are and why. *Acts 2.41,47*
 - B. Would it make you angry if I asked you where I can find the church you belong to in the Bible? When it was established? Where is its name in the Bible?
 - C. The Christian is a member of the same family as Peter and Paul
 - D. *Romans 13* teaches us the weak brother and strong brother should love each other.
 - E. We are to contend for the faith without being contentious.
- V. JOYOUS TO BE ABLE TO WORSHIP GOD, *PSALM 122.1*
- A. We can sing, pray, approach the throne of God.
 - B. There are certain places we cannot enter. In Washington D.C. one will find buildings with signs reading "Do Not Enter."
 - C. We can enter the presence of God in our prayers, in our worship.
- VI. THE CHRISTIAN CAN HELP OTHERS COME CLOSER TO GOD, *LUKE 15.10*
- A. Do you rejoice when a new babe is born in Christ? When a Christian who made shipwreck of his/her faith repents?
 - B. All the trials and problems are blotted out by one person obeying God.
 - 1. Example of leaving home to go to Russia.

2. Discipline is compared to child birth and so can evangelism.

C. Remember you can not lead some one to where you are not at.

1. Can not lead others to obey Christ until you have obeyed Him.

2. Parents that want their children to obey God must do so themselves. Etc, friends, classmates, other family

VII. TO HAVE THE HOPE OF HEAVEN WHEN WE DIE, 2 CORINTHIANS 4.16-5.1

A. God has prepared a place of His people, *Revelation 21.4; 20.; 4.*

B. The writer describes heaven in physical earthly terms but it will not be a physical place, it will be better.

Conclusion:

Are you ready to live a life with joy? If so you can start that life today by becoming a Christian. What is a Christian? Means Christ like, to be a follower of Christ. To follow Christ one must actually do what Christ did in His life and what he tells us to do. Christ tells us to confess Him, repent, and live by following His example. Christ submitted to baptism to obey God. We are baptized for the remission of sins in obedience to God he answers to their questions were rather simple. The same can be said for ours today.