

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Illustration about boy smiling in church, *Illustrations Unlimited*, p 92.
 - 1. Sadly, many treat worship in such a manner.
 - 2. To them, worship is a "have-to"--they leave no room for smiling, for happiness, for joy.
- B. Scripture exhorts us to be a joyful people.
 - 1. Rom 12:12.
 - 2. 1 Thess 5:16.
 - 3. Phil 4:4.
 - 4. Rom 12:15.
- C. In God's presence is fullness of joy (Ps 16:11)--As we come before God in worship, we should do so joyfully.
- D. Ps 66:1.
- E. Gal 5:22.
- F. This morning, we want to examine the Scriptures & see what they say about joy.

II. OBEDIENCE BRINGS JOY.

- A. Jn 15:11.
- B. Jesus had just instructed the apostles to keep his commandments (Jn 15:10).
 - 1. Jesus' joy came from obeying the Father.
 - 2. if we obey the Father, we can have the same joy Jesus had.
- C. This joy comes from loving God.
 - 1. We are to love God with our entire being (Mt 22:37).
 - 2. if we love God in this way, we will want to please him, and pleasing him will bring us joy.
- D. Do you have Jesus' joy? Do you have joy because of your obedience?

III. SALVATION BRINGS JOY.

- A. The Scriptures provide examples of those who rejoiced in their salvation.
 - 1. The seventy Jesus sent out rejoiced that the demons were subject to Jesus' name.
 - a. Jesus told them that he gave them power over the enemy.
 - b. Lk 10:20.
 - 2. Acts 8:39.
 - 3. Acts 16:34.
- B. We have every right to rejoice at our salvation.
 - 1. hell is a horrible place.
 - a. Jesus described hell as a place of "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (e.g., Mt 8:12).
 - b. The rich man was so miserable in torment that he asked Abraham for just a drop of water (Lk 16:24).
 - 2. Heaven, on the other hand, is a wonderful place.
 - a. Jesus described heaven as a place where death does not come (Lk 20:36).
 - b. Heaven is also described as a place where our needs shall be satisfied (Rev 7:14-15).
- C. This joy can sustain us when life becomes difficult.
 - 1. When we are discouraged & uneasy, we know we have a home in heaven.
 - 2. When we become ill, we know that we have a home in heaven.
- D. Are you rejoicing because your name is written in heaven?
- E. The salvation of others also brings joy.
 - 1. Lk 15:7.
 - 2. Lk 15:10.
 - 3. When Paul & Barnabas told the churches in Phoenicia & Samaria about the conversion of the Gentiles, "they caused great joy to all the brethren" (Acts 15:3).
- F. If there is rejoicing in heaven, shouldn't there also be rejoicing upon the earth?

IV. JESUS BRINGS JOY.

- A. Jesus' birth was a cause for joy.
 - 1. When the wise men saw the star, they rejoiced (Mt 2:10).
 - 2. When the angel appeared to the shepherds, he brought tidings of great joy for all people (Lk 2:10).
- B. Jesus' coming should be a cause for our joy.
 - 1. God assumed flesh & lived as we live.
 - 2. In so doing, Jesus was able to secure our salvation.

V. PREACHING BRINGS JOY.

- A. The Bible speaks of those who had joy at the preaching of Jesus.
 - 1. When Philip preached the things concerning Jesus in Samaria, there was great joy in the city (Acts 8:5-8).
 - 2. The Thessalonians received God's Word with joy (1 Thess 1:6).
- B. This joy came because the people had hope through Jesus
 - 1. Their lives had been torn apart because of sin.
 - 2. Yet through Jesus, people have hope.

VI. THE RESURRECTION BRINGS JOY.

- A. When the women found the tomb empty, "they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy" (Mt 28:8).
- B. These women had every right to rejoice.
 - 1. Jesus had been raised just as he had promised.
 - 2. Death had been conquered--One day we will be raised because Jesus was raised.

VIII. TRUST BRINGS JOY.

- A. Hab 3:17-19.
- B. Do you trust in God like Habakkuk?

IX. PERSECUTION BRINGS JOY.

- A. The apostles & early Christians rejoiced when they were persecuted.
 - 1. Acts 5:41.
 - 2. Heb 10:34.
 - 3. 1 Pt 4:13.
- B. These Christians rejoiced, because they realized they were in good number.
 - 1. The persecution they received from the world told them that they were true Christians
 - 2. The prophets before us were persecuted (Mt 5:12).