

## Joy

### Joy to the World?

James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:1-11, Philippians 1-4

- Biblical joy is not a result of where we are \_\_\_\_\_, but where we are \_\_\_\_\_.

### Joy has a source:

John 15:11, Galatians 5:16-23, Psalms 16:11, Romans 14:17 & 15:13

- Joy is a \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Joy does not come when you \_\_\_\_\_, but only after you \_\_\_\_\_.
- Joy comes from a \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_.

What we focus on determines what \_\_\_\_\_.

### How to truly celebrate Christmas:

Romans 10:9, Philippians 2:13

\_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

These are what we receive \_\_\_\_\_

**AND** how we represent \_\_\_\_\_.

## Joy

### Joy to the World?

James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:1-11, Philippians 1-4

- Biblical joy is not a result of where we are **IN LIFE**, but where we are **IN CHRIST**.

### Joy has a source:

John 15:11, Galatians 5:16-23, Psalms 16:11, Romans 14:17 & 15:13

- Joy is a **GIFT**, not a **DESTINATION**.
- Joy does not come when you **HAVE EVERYTHING**, but only after you **GIVE UP EVERYTHING**.
- Joy comes from a **FOCUS**, not a **FEELING**.

What we focus on determines what **WE SEE**.

### How to truly celebrate Christmas:

Romans 10:9, Philippians 2:13

**HOPE → LOVE → PEACE → JOY**

These are what we receive **FROM JESUS**  
**AND** how we represent **JESUS**.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For the week of December 20, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

1. We heard this weekend that while joy seems to be something we can find in abundance during the Christmas season, it can be incredibly difficult for many of us to find in our daily lives. Sometimes, it's because we confuse our culture's definition of happiness with the Biblical definition of joy. How do the following verses help us understand what real joy should look like in our lives?

### **James 1:2-4 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

### **1 Peter 1:8-9 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### **Nehemiah 8:9-12 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

<sup>10</sup> Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

<sup>11</sup> The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve."

<sup>12</sup> Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

2. It's said that happiness is more of a fleeting emotion, and joy comes as a result of the perspectives we gain when we focus on the right things. In reading through the following verses, what examples can you point to in your own life where you've been able to maintain a sense of joy through keeping the proper perspective?

### **Romans 15:13 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **John 3:16-17 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

### **John 16:33 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>33</sup> "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

### **Luke 15:7 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

3. The Christmas hymn "Joy to the World" is ripe with good counsel for finding and maintaining joy throughout this holiday season and beyond. Circle, highlight or underline any words or phrases that stand out to you as something you would want to remind yourself of from time to time in the coming days.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found*

*He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders, of His love*