

Joy to the World! (Pt. 3)

Selected Scripture

- I. The Ultimate Source of Joy
- II. The Believer's Life of Joy
 - A. The Certainty of a Believer's Joy
 - B. The Categories of a Believer's Joy
 - 1. The blessings of this life (2 Ch. 7:10; Acts 14:17)
 - 2. Our Christian relationships (Phil. 4:1; 2 Th. 2:19)
 - 3. The spiritual prosperity of others
 - 4. Our daily work (Pr. 8:30-31; Eccl. 2:24-25)
 - 5. All the circumstances of this life (Dt. 12:18; Phil. 4:4; 1 Th. 5:16)
 - 6. All our difficulties & trials (Rom. 5:3; Jam. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:6)

Joy to the World! (Pt. 3)

Selected Scripture

II. The Believer's Life of Joy

- A. The Certainty of a Believer's Joy
- B. The Categories of a Believer's Joy
- C. The Cause of a Believer's Joy
 - 1. Our joy is found in God.
 - 2. Our joy is a gift of God (Neh. 12:43; Ps. 4:7; 21:6; Rom. 15:13).
 - 3. Our joy is Christ's own joy (Jn. 15:11; 17:13).
 - 4. Christ's joy becomes ours through the work of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17; Gal. 5:22; 1 Th. 1:6).
 - 5. Christ's joy becomes ours by believing God's Word (Rom. 15:13).

Joy to the World! (Pt. 3)

Selected Scripture

II. The Believer's Life of Joy

- A. The Certainty of a Believer's Joy
- B. The Categories of a Believer's Joy
- C. The Cause of a Believer's Joy
- D. The Course of a Believer's Joy
 - 1. Joyful Acceptance (Rom. 5:3; Heb. 10:34; Jam. 1:2)
 - 2. Joyful Endurance (Rom. 5:3; 12:12; Heb. 10:36; 12:1-3; Jam. 1:3-4)
 - 3. Joyful Confidence (Rom. 8:18-23; 12:12; Heb. 10:34; Jam. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:4-6, 8-9; 4:13)
- E. The Cultivation of a Believer's Joy

Biblical joy is NOT...

1. Human Joy — present in only favorable circumstances
2. Only Joy — the absence of all grief
3. Perfect Joy — the uninterrupted, perfect joy of heaven
4. Artificial Joy — a refusal to acknowledge hard things
5. Temperamental Joy — a positive outlook & temperament

Joy to the World! (Pt. 3)

Selected Scripture

E. The Cultivation of a Believer's Joy

1. Know the truth of God's Word about your circumstances.
 - About trials generally (Rom. 5:3-4; Jam.1:2-4)
 - About each trial specifically (Eph. 6:17; cf. Mt. 4:1-11)
2. Believe God's Word about your circumstances (Rom. 15:13).
3. Rehearse God's Word about your circumstances (e.g., Ps. 73:16-19; Lam. 3:20-25; Hab. 3:17-19).
4. Give thanks and praise for what God's Word says about your circumstances (Ps. 92:1-4; 119:111; Pr. 15:13; Phil. 4:4; 1 Th. 5:16, 18).

F. The Consummation of a Believer's Joy (Ps. 16:11; Mt. 25:21, 23; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; Jude 24)