

Full Of Joy

Intro: There can be no arguing the fact that the world is depressed and despondent. Just notice the number of suicides each year, or notice how crowded the insane asylums are. Today we live under the constant threat of atomic destruction. Note the *tone* of the news: mostly bad. Yet, God wants His people to be happy, 1 John 1:4 “⁴⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.” *Joy* is the emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good, gladness, delight. *Joy* is the serenity of the soul that comes from having made peace with God.

I. THE JOY OF CHRISTIANITY AS SEEN IN THE EARLY CHURCH.

A. The saints had glad hearts.

1. Acts 2:46 “⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,”
2. These saints had:
 - a. A daily teaching program; Acts 5:42 “⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”
 - b. Consistent lives; Acts 2:42 “⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
 - c. Glad hearts; Acts 2:46 “⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,”

B. Philip preaching Christ in Samaria caused joy; Acts 8:5, 8 “⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. ⁶ And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.”

C. After the Ethiopian’s conversion to Christ, he went on his way rejoicing; Acts 8:39 “³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”

D. In Antioch the disciples were filled with joy; Acts 13:52 “⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.”

E. The Philippian jailor; Acts 16:34 “³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”

F. The early Christians had their trials, temptations, burdens, persecutions, and the pressures of life.

1. They did not have *wonder drugs* or hospitals.
2. They did not have modern conveniences.
3. They did have the right relationship with God and joy was the result.

II. GOD’S PEOPLE WERE URGED TO REJOICE.

A. Phi. 4:4 “⁴ Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.”

1. This church was born in the midst of persecution.
 - a. Acts 16:
 - b. 1 The. 2:1-2 “¹ For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: ² But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.”

2. But, “in the Lord” they were:
 - a. Meet (fit) for heaven; Col. 1:12 ^{“12} Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:”
 - b. Redeemed from sin; Col. 1:14 ^{“14} In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:”
 - c. Forgiven of all sin; Col. 1:14 ^{“14} In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:”
 - d. Delivered from Satan’s power; Col. 1:13 ^{“13} Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
 - e. Been chosen; Eph. 1:4 ^{“4} According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”
 - f. Obtained an inheritance in heaven;
 - (1) Eph. 1:11 ^{“11} In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”
 - (2) 1 Pet. 1:3-5 ^{“3} Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
 - g. Been sealed with the Holy Spirit; Eph. 1:13-14 ^{“13} In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

B. Thessalonians were instructed to rejoice; 1 The. 5:16 ^{“16} Rejoice evermore.”

1. The church was born in the midst of persecution.
 - a. Acts 17:1-13 ^{“1} Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: ² And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, ³ Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. ⁴ And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. ⁵ But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; ⁷ Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, *one* Jesus. ⁸ And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. ⁹ And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go. ¹⁰ And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.”
 - b. 1 The. 1:6; 2:14 ^{“6} And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: . . . ^{2:14} For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:”
2. Yet, they could rejoice in spite of problems, trials, and persecutions.

- C. The Romans could rejoice in hope while they were patient in tribulation; Rom. 12:12**
“¹²Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”
- D. A characteristic of the Spirit’s fruit produced in a person’s life is joy; Gal. 5:22** “²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”

Conclusion: God intends for man to be happy. Just notice the Genesis account of Eden before sin came. When Christ was born the angel brought good tidings of great joy, Luke 2:10 “¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” In the last 24 hours of Christ on earth, Jesus spoke often of joy and peace.

Full Of Joy

Intro: 1 John 1:4 “⁴And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.” John wrote that your joy may be full or that you may be full of joy. God wants His people to be joyous, Phi. 4:4 “⁴Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.” 1 The. 5:16 “¹⁶Rejoice evermore.” The Holy Spirit through John outlines some of the basic causes of unhappiness.

I. THE PROBLEM OF SIN.

A. 1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-2. “⁵This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ²¹My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ²And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.”

B. Sin brings sorrow and suffering.

1. Gen. 3:16-19 “¹⁶Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. ¹⁷And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.”
2. Contrast Adam’s life prior to and after sin entered.
3. The thrill, excitement, and pleasure of sin is “but for a moment”; Heb. 11:24-25 “²⁴By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; ²⁵Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;”
4. The joy lost may be lost forever; Rom. 6:23 “²³For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

C. Sin brings a sense of condemnation and guilt.

1. Gen. 3:8 “⁸And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”
2. One today may seek to hide behind the tree of hypocrisy; Mat. 23.
3. One may seek to hide “in the crowd”; Heb. 4:13 “¹³Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”
4. One may seek to hide behind the tree of procrastination; Jam. 4:17 “¹⁷Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.”

D. Sin robbed David of joy.

1. Psa. 51:12 “¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.”
 - a. This is David’s psalm of penitence after Nathan had confronted David with the sin of adultery.
 - b. 2 Sam. 11-12

2. See the heartbreak unfold after David's sin.
 - a. The death of his child; 2 Sam. 12:14-23 ¹⁴Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die. ¹⁵And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. ¹⁶David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. ¹⁷And the elders of his house arose, *and went* to him, to raise him up from the earth: but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. ¹⁸And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? ¹⁹But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. ²⁰Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. ²¹Then said his servants unto him, What thing *is* this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, *while it was* alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. ²²And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell *whether* GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? ²³But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."
 - b. Ammon's incest with his sister; 2 Sam. 13.
 - c. Absalom's tragic death; 2 Sam. 18.
- E. **Peter wept bitterly after he had denied the Lord; Mat. 26:75** ⁷⁵And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."
- F. **Judas committed suicide following his betrayal of Christ; Mat. 27:5** ⁵And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself."

II. THE PROBLEM OF SELFISHNESS.

- A. 1 John 3:17 ¹⁷But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"
- B. **The philosophy of the world that "joy comes by getting" is false.**
 1. Luke 12:15 ¹⁵And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."
 2. To be joyous one must be rich toward God; Luke 12:21 ²¹So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."
 3. Rejoicing comes by giving, sharing.
- C. **One who finds *happiness* by inflicting pain upon others is destined for a short-lived happiness; 1 John 3:11-12** ¹¹For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

III. THE PROBLEM OF INORDINATE AFFECTION.

- A. 1 John 2:15-18 ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. ¹⁸Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."

- B. A fundamental problem of life is learning what to love and what not to love. 1 John 2:15-17** ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
1. The world is people who.
 - a. Live by lust (uncontrolled desires)
 - b. Live exclusively for things; Luke 12:13-20 ¹³And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. ¹⁴And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? ¹⁵And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. ¹⁶And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? ¹⁸And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. ²⁰But God said unto him, *Thou fool*, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”
 2. Those who love God keep his commandments; 1 John 5:3 ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”
- C. If one lives exclusively for the here and now he deprives himself of the joy of hope; Rom. 12:12** ¹²Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”
- D. Man shall not live by bread alone; Mat. 4:4** ⁴But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Conclusion: One needs to be aware of those things which rob men of joy. God has a remedy.

(1) for sin: the blood of Jesus; 1 John 1:7; 2:2 ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.... ^{2:2}And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.”

(2) for selfishness: a Christ-like attitude of giving; Acts 20:35 ³⁵I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

(3) for inordinate affection: the love of God, 1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

Full Of Joy (3)

Intro: God is desirous of His people to be joyous. Phi. 4:4 “*Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*” 1 The. 5:16 “*Rejoice evermore.*” We as Christians live in a world of hate, war, greed, suffering, and death. Yet the world was like this when Paul wrote, “*Rejoice evermore.*” In the midst of trials, temptations, and troubles, God’s people can be joyous. (See Phi. 4:4 “*Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*”, notice the attention given to anxiety.) God’s people can rejoice because:

I. GOD HAS SPOKEN TO MAN.

A. 1 John 1:5 “*5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*”

B. Man needs direction in life.

1. Man cannot find the right way.

- a. Pro. 14:12 “*12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*”
- b. Isa. 53:6 “*6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*”
- c. Jer. 10:23 “*23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*”

2. Psa. 119:105 “*105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*”

C. In the midst of temporal, changing things; man needs something that is fixed and permanent.

1. 1 Tim. 6:9-10 “*9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*”

2. Material things are not permanent.

- a. Mat. 24:35 “*35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*”
- b. 2 Pet. 3:10-11 “*10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*”

3. Man’s association with material things is not permanent.

- a. 1 Tim. 6:9-10 “*9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*”
- b. Luke 12:16-20 “*16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*”

4. The glory, acceptance, acclaim of one’s contemporaries is short lived; 1 Pet. 1:24 “*24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:*”

5. God's message to man abides.
 - a. Mat. 24:35 ³⁵ "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
 - b. 1 Pet. 1:25 ²⁵ "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

D. God almighty has spoken to man.

1. Read the Bible with the idea, "God is talking to me personally, individually."
2. You have a message from God: The honor of this should thrill the soul.

II. THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST CLEANSSES MEN FROM SIN.

A. 1 John 1:5-2:2 ⁵ "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ²¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world."

B. Sin brings sorrow, suffering, and shame.

1. Adam and Eve hid themselves from God: Gen. 3:16-19 ¹⁶ "Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. ¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return."
2. David lost the joy of salvation: Psa. 51:12 ¹² "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit."
3. Peter wept bitterly: Mat. 26:75 ⁷⁵ "And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly."
4. Judas hanged himself: Mat. 27:

C. Salvation from the condemnation, guilt, and shame of sin brings joy, peace, happiness.

1. The Ethiopian eunuch rejoiced: Acts 8:39 ³⁹ "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."
2. The Philippian jailor rejoiced: Acts 16:34 ³⁴ "And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."

D. The Christian has been cleansed from sin.

1. Jesus was the propitiation for our sins.
 - a. 1 John 2:2 ² "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world."
 - b. Propitiation: appease and render favorable.
 - c. Jesus blood is a ransom.
 - (1) 1 Pet. 1:18 ¹⁸ "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;"

- (2) Heb. 2:9 ⁴⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
- (3) Heb. 9:28 ⁴²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”
- 2. The Christian has been cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ.
 - a. Eph. 1:7 ⁴⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
 - b. Col. 1:14 ⁴¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:”
- 3. This cleansing took place when the person was baptized into Jesus death.
 - a. Rom. 6:3-4 ⁴³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”
 - b. Col. 2:11-13 ⁴¹¹ In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: ¹² Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;”

E. The Christian is constantly and continually cleansed by Jesus blood.

- 1. 1 John 1:7 ⁴⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
- 2. The Christian is not sinless; 1 John 1:8, 10 ⁴⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”
- 3. When he confesses his sins, God forgives.
 - a. 1 John 1:9 ⁴⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
 - b. Acts 8:22-24 ⁴²² Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. ²³ For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity. ²⁴ Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.”

III. THE CHRISTIAN HAS PRECIOUS PROMISES OF GOD.

- A. 1 John 2:25 ⁴²⁵ And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.”
- B. God’s promises are precious 2 Pet. 1:4 ⁴⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
- C. God has promised:
 - 1. To hear the prayers of His children, 1 John 5:14 ⁴¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:”
 - 2. To work all things together for good: Rom. 8:28 ⁴²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.”
 - 3. Eternal life.
 - a. 1 John 2:25 ⁴²⁵ And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.”
 - b. Eternal life is more than eternal existence Rom. 2:7 ⁴⁷ To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:”

- c. Anticipation of eternal salvation brings joy, 1 Pet, 1:8-9 “⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹ Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.”

D. No person can be genuinely happy now unless he can confidently look the future in the face.

Conclusion: God’s people have reason to be full of joy. The song “O Happy Day” beautifully summarizes the lesson.

O Happy Day

O Happy day that fixed my choice on Thee, my Savior and my God! Well may this glowing heart rejoice, and tell its raptures all abroad!

O Happy bond, that seals my vows to Him who merits all my love! Let cheerful anthems fill His house, while to thy sacred shrine I move.

Tis done, the great transactions done: I am my Lord’s and He is mine! He drew me, and I followed on, charmed to confess the voice divine.

Now rest, my long divided heart, fixed on this blissful center, rest; Here have I found a nobler part, here heavenly pleasures fill my breast.

Chorus

Happy day, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away. He taught me how to watch and pray, and live rejoicing every day; Happy day, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away.