

Blessings of Loving God: Inexpressible Joy

1 Peter 1:6-9

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls. NKJV

Joy and happiness are a very important part of our lives. People will endure all types of toils and trials for a shot at happiness. The founding fathers felt that this was so important to the well being of people that the “pursuit of happiness” was included in the list of unalienable rights.

I. Jesus Offers You

- A. Forgiveness of sin
- B. Eternal life
- C. Purpose and fulfillment
- D. Peace and rest.

- 1. Matt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." NKJV

II. Jesus Only You

- A. Neither is there Salvation in any other - Acts 4:12
- B. He is the way (the only way), the truth and the life. John 14:6
- C. Only Jesus can offer what He does, everyone else offers only counterfeits
 - 1. The devil sells cheap counterfeits

III. Jesus Over You

- A. Jesus must be our Lord and Savior.
- B. Paul told the jailor in Philippi “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. So many want Him as Savior but not Lord
 - 1. But Jesus only saves those who take Him as Lord as best they know how.
 - 2. Luke 19:12-14, 27
 - a. "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. 13 So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.' 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after

him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.' NKJV

- b. Luke 19:27 But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me." NKJV

IV. Jesus Owns You

- A. You are not your own, you are bought with a price.
 - 1. 1 Cor 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. NKJV
- B. There is no joy in seeking after all that the lost does.
 - 1. They seek pleasure in things that destroy
 - 2. Those things do not bring lasting joy

V. Jesus Owns Others

- A. Jesus made it simple, if you would have a life that fulfills all a heart could desire then you must lose it.
- B. Jesus offers a servanthood that brings the greatest fulfillment.
 - 1. Let me ask you, who do you think died with the greatest sense of fulfillment, Mother Teresa or Howard Hughes?
 - 2. The crown that Jesus held out to His followers goes like this. "Well done, good and faithful servant."
 - 3. Until we live our lives for others, we have not truly lived.
 - 4. And we will never have the joy that Jesus fully intended.
- C. 1 John 3:16-17 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? NKJV

Loving God has great blessings. I can with confidence say that if you want joy, real joy, then let go of your life and give it to Jesus. He can do a far better job than can you.