

Joy

Romans 5:1-11

1/7/23

Outline

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God

I. Joy is Important.

"Smart people talk trash about happiness and worse than trash about books on happiness and we've done so for centuries because happiness studies and positive psychology is not so much the work of the devil but the work of morons. The real problem with happiness is not its pursuers or their books but with happiness itself. It's so transient. It's deep but often brief. The world passes away on us. Its petals fall, the beloved dies and no amount of fashionable scowling will keep us from savoring the sun on our face or save us from our adult understanding that it will not last." ~ Amy Bloom, "The Wrap on Happiness:"

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"My guess is this approach could work. But even if it did would such a life be rich enough and complex enough to be worth living? Some would say yes. I am not among them." ~ Joseph Epstein, theologian

"If you do not want your heart to be broken. If you always want serenity, don't give your heart to anything. (Not the Pittsburgh Pirates or the Kansas City Chiefs or Oregon Ducks) not even a spouse. Oh, you may marry but don't give yourself fully to the person. Put your heart in a little casket to make sure it can never be broken. But in that casket, it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, and irredeemable."

~ C.S.
Lewis

II. Christian Joy is What We Need, Not Happiness.

According to Happiness.com you can achieve happiness if you do these five things:

1. Be in possession of the basics – food, water, clothing, shelter, safety and health.
2. Get enough sleep.
3. Have relationships that matter to you.
4. Take compassionate care of yourself and others.
5. Have work that is interesting and engaging.

"Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word from the mouth of God." Matther 4:4

III. How Do You Get Christian joy?

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation." (vss. 8-9)

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"For the joy of the Lord is our strength." Nehemiah 8:10

*Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!*