

Reasons to Rejoice

By Jeff Arnette

There are those in the church today who have lost sight of their joy. Indeed, several things in this world tend to rob us of our happiness. In Philippians 4:1-9, the apostle Paul speaks to us on the subject of joy. He is qualified to talk about the issue of pleasure, for in spite of his hardships and persecutions, he found the secret of real Christian Joy. In fact, he was in prison when he wrote the words of our text, but even that could not rob him of his joy. The secret is in the words, "In the Lord."

Often, the reason we have not found joy is that we have looked for it in all the wrong places. We look for it in education, in wealth, in power, and even in philosophy. However, real joy is always found in the Lord. John 15:11 relates to us the words of Jesus when he said, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (ESV Study Bible, pg. 2055). It is only in Jesus that we find real joy, true purpose, and true meaning to our lives.

I want to encourage you to rejoice in the Lord, to lay hold of that joy that can be ours. I will give you four reasons to rejoice. Let's look at each of these.

First, Paul tells us in verse 3 that we should rejoice because our names are written in heaven. This is such a great thing that Jesus used this same thought to encourage his disciples in Luke 10:20. When we obey the gospel and become Christians, God adds us to the church, and our names are written in heaven. This should give us joy and comfort.

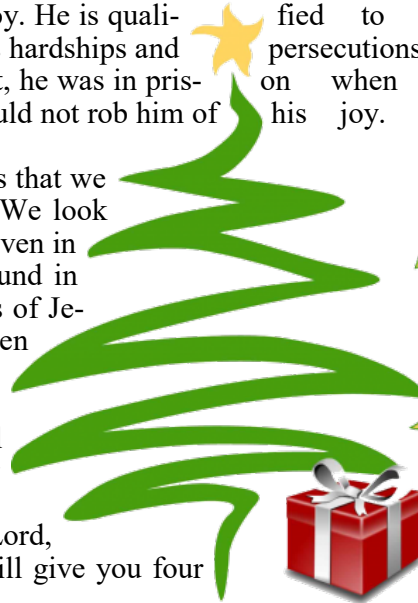
Second, Paul says in verse 5 that we should rejoice because the Lord is near. This should cause us to rejoice to know that the Lord is near to his people. We find joy in knowing that Jesus is coming back someday to right all the wrongs done to his people and to reward us for our faithful service.

Third, Paul says in verse 6 that we should rejoice because of the privilege of prayer. Indeed, our father in heaven is anxious for us to talk with him. As Christians, we are commanded to pray instead of worry about what life brings us. As Tom Miller once said, "Prayer lifts life's loads and gives us joy." Casting our cares upon God helps to lift that load, and it reminds us that God does care.

Lastly, Paul says in verse 9 that we should rejoice because of our opportunities to serve. Inactivity hinders our joy. Even modern psychology tells us that the first thing we should do for emotional problems is to get busy. We should consider it a great joy to be able to serve the Lord in any area that he needs us. This helps us to feel important, needed, and most often gives us great joy. When we serve others, we are truly serving Jesus.

The Christian life begins and ends with joy, and it follows that the Christian life should be a life filled with joy. I hope I have convinced you to lay hold of the blessing God has given you. Don't sit by any longer and wonder why your joy is not full. Do these things, and your joy will be full.

Jeff Arnette preaches for the Central Haywood church of Christ, Clyde, NC



The Joy of Giving

Schedule of Services

Greeting: Mark

Song Leader: Ray

Opening Hymn:

559—Tis So Sweet

Opening Prayer: Dale

Hymn:

12—Sing On

Scripture Reading: Larry

Philippians 4:1-9

Hymn:

321—At the Cross

Lord's Supper: Tom

Hymn:

207—The Lily of the Valley

Sermon: Mark

Invitation Hymn:

522—Jesus Saves

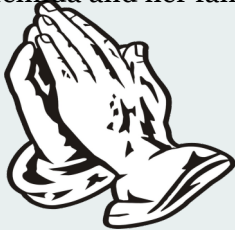
Closing Hymn:

653—Sing and be Happy

Closing Prayer: Jared

PRAYER LIST

- *Mary and her family. Carl is still having problems with his hip.
- *Tom and Nina's 5-year-old great nephew, Bear Nicholas, will be going to St. Jude's in January.
- *Tom and Nina's friend Ken and his wife Brenda.
- *Bonnie and her family.
- *Betty and her family.
- *Margaret and Albert.
- *Wanda and her family.
- *Kathy, her sister, and her friends.
- *Zarna's family and friends
- *Larry and Ruth.
- *Pat and Ron and their family.
- *Juanita's sister Betty and the rest of her family.
- *Robert and Sara and their children.
- *Ray and Barbara and their family.
- *Dale and his family.
- *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven. Rebecca broke her arm last week.
- *Myron & Carole and their family.
- *Mark and his family.
- *Melinda and her family.



CALENDAR

- Dec. 12—Worship 11 am
Speaker: Mark
- Dec. 12—Bible Study
6pm on-line with Dale
- Dec. 19—Worship 11 am
Speaker: Mark
- Dec. 19—Bible Study
6pm on-line with Dale
- Dec. 19—Christmas gifts for sponsored family due

Answer to Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Be United, Joyful, and in Prayer

Philippians 4:1-9

Anxious	beloved	brethren	Christ
Clement	Companion	Crown	Euodia
Everything	fellow	Finally	gentleness
Gospel	guard	hearts	implore
Jesus	Known	labored	longed
Minds	names	noble	nothing
Peace	prayer	requests	stand
Surpasses	Syntyche	Therefore	These
Things	which	whose	women
workers			

G S S D T G R A E J E D O S N I C E
 N T U E H O I N I S A R E W D T H E
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 T U A B G E T O D A C U G I P L A M
 Y Q S A S L R E I N B I E N O M E W
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 I O Q D J N H C I H W I E M C N Q T
 N X E H C Y T N Y S A R O F I T V Z
 G G I R C K G P R A Y E R N O B L E

Hidden Message: _____
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**Lazy hands make a man poor,
 but diligent hands bring wealth .**

SUNDAY: Worship — 11:00 am; Bible Study — 6:00 pm (on Zoom)
 Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org
 E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com
 Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com
 Follow us on FaceBook