THE SOURCES OF REAL JOY

Phil. 4:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our text says the Christian's JOY is in the Lord (or in Christ) -- Phil. 3:3
   (1) Those who have been baptized into Christ have JOY -- Acts 8: 39; Rom. 5:2
   (2) Christ is the Christian’s Hope -- I Tim. 1:1; Heb. 3:6; 6:19

2. This JOY in Christ is PERMANENT -- Phil. 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always..."
   (1) The Christian rejoices:
      1. In affliction and persecution -- Matt. 5: 10 - 12; Acts 5: 41
      2. In pain -- Heb. 12:2 -- Satan is defeated, man can be saved -- Isa. 35:10
      3. In disappointment -- James 1: 2 - 4
      4. In sorrow -- II Cor. 6:10

3. The Christian is to rejoice in all things and NOT WORRY.
   (1) Jesus tells us NOT to WORRY -- Matt. 6:25
   (2) Paul said, "Be anxious for nothing"...Phil. 4:6
   (3) JOY is strengthening to the spiritual life, but worry and sadness paralyzes the soul.

4. The JOY of the Christian is NOT the JOY that comes from earthly things or cheap triumphs -- it is a JOY whose BASE is God, Christ, and heavenly things-- Col. 3: 1 - 2

I. THE CHARACTER OF GOD ALWAYS BRINGS JOY TO THE CHRISTIAN WHEN CONTEMPLATED

   1. There is no fickleness in God -- James 1:17; II Pet. 3:9; Heb. 13:8
   2. He is Holy -- I Pet. 1:16; Heb. 7:26
   3. He is Just (impartial and fair) -- Deut. 32:4
   4. He is a God of Truth -- Deut. 32: 4; Tit. 1:2 (He cannot lie)
   5. A God of Love -- John 3:16; Eph. 5:2
   6. A God of Mercy -- I Pet. 1:3; Eph. 2: 4
   7. A God of Grace -- Eph. 2:8; Tit. 2: 11 -12
   8. He is Impartial -- Rom. 2:11; Acts 10: 34 - 35
   9. He is Longsuffering -- II Pet. 3:9
   10. He is a God who Pardons -- Isa. 55:7 (He forgives; a forgiving God); I John 1:9

II. GOD'S CARE BRINGS THE CHRISTIAN JOY

   1. God cares for His people -- I Pet. 5:7; Psa. 55:22
2. The Lord is **always at hand** (near) -- Phil. 4:5; Acts 17:27

3. He is **always seeing after His people** -- I Pet. 3:12

4. He is **always hearing their prayers** -- I Pet. 3:12; I John 5: 14 - 15

5. He is **always wanting men to learn the truth and be saved** -- I Tim. 2:4

6. He is **always supplying out physical needs** -- Matt. 6:33; James 1:17

7. He **never leaves us or forsakes us** -- Heb. 13: 5 - 6

8. In the hour of death when the Christian walks "through the valley of the shadow of death", God is there -- Ps. 23:4

### III. THE CHRISTIAN HAS A SAVIOR THAT BRINGS HIM JOY ALWAYS

1. The Christian rejoices:
   
   (1) In Christ’s **love and sacrifice** for man -- Eph. 5:2; Lk. 19:10; Matt. 20:28
   
   (2) In Christ’s **holy life, our example** -- I Pet. 2: 21 - 22; Heb. 7:26
   
   (3) In the **church** that He bought -- Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28
   
   (4) In His **resurrection** -- I Cor. 15: 16 - 22
   
   (5) In His **perpetual intercession** -- Heb. 4: 15 - 16; I John 2: 1 - 2
   
   (6) In the **Hope** He gives us -- I Tim. 1:1; Tit. 1:2; John 14: 1 - 6; Rom. 8: 24 - 25

### IV. THE CHRISTIAN FINDS GREAT JOY IN THE WORD OF GOD

1. "**The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;**"...Psa. 19:9

2. The blessed man of Psalms one, "**His delight is in the law of the Lord**"... Psa. 1:2; Psa. 19:10

3. The Thessalonians **received the Word with JOY** -- I Thess. 1:6

4. The **Word saves** -- Acts 11:14; Rom. 1: 16; James 1:21; John 8:32

5. The word of God is full of **precious promises** that bring the Christian JOY -- II Pet. 1:4
   
   (1) The **forgiveness of sins** -- Acts 2:38
   
   (2) The forgiveness of sins of the **erring** Christian -- Acts 8:22; James 5:16; I John 1:9
   
   (3) A way of **escape from temptation** -- I Cor. 10: 13
   
   (4) The **intercession of Jesus** -- Heb. 7: 25 - 26; I John 2: 1 - 2
   
   (5) God **will not forsake us** -- Heb. 13: 5 - 6
   
   (6) **All things work together for good** -- Rom. 8:28
   
   (7) Seek the kingdom first and **all things will be added** -- Matt. 6:33
   
   (8) **Eternal life** -- Tit. 1:2; II John 2:25

### V. THE CONVERSION OF SOULS BRINGS GREAT JOY TO CHRISTIANS

1. The **conversion of the Gentiles** brought great JOY to all the brethren -- Acts 15:3
2. There is JOY in heaven **when a sinner is converted** -- Luke 15: 7, 10

3. Christians have great JOY today **when sinners are converted**.

4. It is a JOYOUS thing to **bring sinners to Christ in obedience** to the gospel.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians have JOY unspeakable -- 1 Pet. 1:8

2. They have a JOY that is full -- I John 1:4; "Rejoice evermore" 1 Thess. 5:16

3. Sinner friend, don’t you want this JOY?

4. It can be yours in Christ.

~ Donald Townsley

(Hebron Lane 1992, Charlestown meeting 1992, River Bend 1994)