

REDEMPTION CHURCH

His Name Shall be Called | Joy

BIG POINT

While a broken world sadly misses the true reason and source of joy, we celebrate that joy truly has come to the world. Jesus is both our reason for and source of joy.

A recent survey found that 91% celebrate Christmas. However, when asked what's important to them about Christmas the top answer was "spending time with family", while the "birth of Jesus" came in at second to last place – behind "time off work to relax" and "watching Christmas shows on TV".

WHAT IS JOY

"Joy is the clearest witness to the worth of what we enjoy. It's the deepest reverberation in the heart of man of the value of God's glory."

–John Piper

Last week we began our Christmas series looking to Isaiah 8:19-9:2 and were reminded that evil exists in the world, who Jesus is, and why He came. This weekend Mike Edwards walked us through the following verse in the passage, Isaiah 9:3 to remind us of our true source of joy.

For to Us a Child Is Born ¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³**You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.**

–Isaiah 9:1-3

Notes:

Over 2,000 years ago a baby established the true meaning of Christmas and changed the world. To some that's foolishness; but, to those who know this child born in a manger, He is light of the world! How do we know this text from Isaiah is about Christmas? Because Jesus says so Himself in [Matthew 4:12-17](#).

When light breaks into darkness it produces JOY, certainly the themes here today (light and joy): Isaiah, [John 1:4-5](#), and Luke 2:10, "And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

- Christians ought to be the brightest and most joyful people on the planet –DESPITE our circumstances:

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Mt 5:11-12

Joy is something of substance we can cling to and the Bible is FULL of it: [John 17:1, 13](#), and "looking to Jesus, the

1 Peter 1:3-9

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

NOW WHAT?

Each of us ask ourselves:

Is my light shining?

Am I planting the seeds of the Gospel?

Am I staying battle ready?

Pray:

1 Peter 1:8-9 takes root deep in our hearts and spreads!

founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

Jesus' greatest joy is the glory of the Father and He shares this joy with us! This runs through the entirety of Scripture.

True JOY comes only from God. There are many things that bring us joy in life: *“Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.”* Pr 27:9. Ultimately, these are all from God Himself! ([James 1:17](#))

- Joy is fruit of the Spirit –it cannot be manufactured.
- Notice: Joy before Him (or in His presence) [Ps 16:11](#).
- Where else do we struggle or try to derive joy from?
 - ✦ pleasures of this world (lust of the flesh)
 - ✦ our own efforts (pride of life)
 - ✦ the approval of others (lust of the eyes)
 - ✦ the illusion of control (wanting to be god-like)

Each echo the Satan in Eden! We can't look inward to find joy. We can't just “be true to ourselves” because we cannot produce this kind of joy.

The 4 G's: God is so...

GOOD, we don't need to look elsewhere for pleasure.

GRACIOUS, we don't have to prove ourselves.

GLORIOUS, we don't need to fear what others think.

GREAT, we don't have to be in control.

This kind of joy fuels mission. Biblical joy, this full satisfaction from Christ alone, is contagious and meant to be carried throughout the world. Jesus allows us to share in His joy; but even better, He lets us share in HIS WORK!

We are the light of the world (boldness) [Mt 5:14-16](#)

We are laborers for the harvest (faith) [Mt 9:37-38](#), [1Cor 3:6-9](#)

We are soldiers in God's army (action) and we get to enjoy the spoils! [2 Tim 2:3-4](#). We don't retreat, or surrender.

Warning!!!

Satan disguises himself as an angel of light, but his light is fleeting not everlasting ([2 Corinthians 11:14](#)).

Don't trade fleeting sin, an artificial joy or light, for the real thing ([Hebrews 11:24-25](#))!