**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Joy Is an Inside Job |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 5:1-2 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1433 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. Joy goes far beyond a smile.
		1. A smile is outward, but joy is inward.
		2. A smile at its best can last a few hours, but joy is eternal.
	2. In the Greek language, the shortest verse in the Bible is 1 Thessalonians 5:16.
		1. “Rejoice evermore.”
	3. We can have fullness of joy.
	4. Joy is an inside job.
	5. We live in a generation that is seeking happiness.
		1. Everyone thinks that the saying, “Don’t worry, be happy,” is good advice.
			1. This is terrible advice.
				1. We are not to be happy all of the time.
	6. What is the difference between happiness and joy?
		1. Happiness depends upon what happens.
			1. If we put our trust in happiness, then we are going to be victims of our circumstances.
			2. Our happenstance will change, but God never changes.
			3. The Bible does not tell us to rejoice in circumstances.
				1. The Bible says that we are to rejoice in the Lord.

Philippians 4:4

* + - * 1. Since the Lord never changes, we are to rejoice evermore.
		1. Happiness is cosmetic.
			1. Joy is like character.
		2. Happiness comes from outside circumstances.
			1. Joy comes from within.
		3. Happiness meets surface needs.
			1. Joy meets our deepest needs.
		4. Happiness is like a thermometer that registers conditions.
			1. Joy is like a thermostat that regulates conditions.
		5. Happiness evaporates and disappears in times of suffering.
			1. Joy frequently intensifies in times of suffering.
				1. Joy is often intertwined with suffering.
		6. Happiness always works best when it is rooted in joy.
			1. If joy is overlayed with happiness, then it is a wonderful thing.
		7. Joy is not dependent upon happiness.
			1. It may function even better when happiness is taken away.
	1. It is cruel to tell people who are in sorrow to smile and be happy.
		1. People are not happy all of the time.
			1. We are not expected to smile all of the time.
		2. The Bible says that the Lord Jesus was a Man of sorrow and acquainted with grief.
			1. Isaiah 53:3
			2. Yet, the Bible spoke of the joy of the Lord.
				1. Psalm 45:7
	2. This is a life of tragedy, sorrow, and heartache.
		1. Yet, in sorrow and heartache and difficulty, we can have joy.
	3. Happiness is an outside job; joy is an inside job.
	4. Joy is important.
		1. Joy is important to winning people to Jesus Christ.
			1. There is nothing more winsome or attractive to bringing people to Jesus than the joy of the Lord.
				1. A cold, dry faith has no appeal.
			2. When David got out of fellowship with God, he lost his joy.
				1. When he lost his joy, he stopped being a soul winner.

Psalm 51:12-13

* + - 1. Joy is the proof that what we have is real, and it satisfies.
			2. Joy is necessary to bringing unsaved people to Jesus Christ.
		1. Joy is necessary to living the Christian life.
			1. Psalm 100:2
			2. Nehemiah 8:10
				1. The joy of the Lord is our strength.
			3. It is joy that lubricates life.
			4. It is joy that lifts the burden.
			5. It is joy that takes the pain, dreariness, and weariness out of any work.
	1. There are four ingredients to joy.
		1. In today’s message, we will look at four qualities of life that bring joy and that make life worth living.
1. A cleansed life (romans 5:1-2)
	1. To be clean and pure before God, to know that there is no sin between us and God, causes indescribable joy.
	2. Romans 5:1-2
		1. Joy comes from having peace with God.
			1. Peace with God comes by the grace of God.
				1. The grace of God brings justification.

Justification brings joy.

* + 1. Faith brings justification, justification brings peace, and peace brings joy.
			1. Joy comes from knowing that our sins are forgiven.
	1. What is justification?
		1. Justification is a legal term.
		2. The Bible says that righteousness is reckoned to us.
			1. The word “reckoned” is a bookkeeping term.
		3. Everything that we have done is recorded in God’s book.
			1. Matthew 12:36
			2. Psalm 139:2
			3. He knows our words, our thoughts, our deeds, and our failures.
			4. He knows everything that we have ever done.
			5. He knows every lie that we ever told, every vile thought, and every lustful deed we have done.
			6. He knows everything that we ought to have done but did not do.
				1. All of these have been put in a ledger.
		4. When God justifies us, He takes all the things that we have done from our side of the ledger and puts them on Jesus’ side of the ledger.
			1. He takes all of our sins and puts them on Jesus’ side of the ledger.
			2. With His blood that He shed at Calvary, Jesus writes across our sins the words “Paid in full.”
		5. Then, God takes the righteousness, holiness, and purity of Jesus Christ and puts that on our side of the ledger.
			1. The Bible says that He imputes to us righteousness.
				1. Romans 4:6
				2. This is called justification.
		6. When we are justified, we are clean and have great joy.
	2. Luke 10:1-20
		1. Jesus sent seventy out with great power.
		2. They came back so happy and proclaimed that even the demons were subject to them in His name.
		3. Luke 10:20
			1. It is better to have our names written in Heaven on God’s side of the ledger than to have demons cringe before us.
	3. Sin takes the joy out of our lives.
		1. When a Christian allows sin back into his life, it destroys the joy.
			1. This is the reason why David prayed, “Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation.”
				1. Psalm 51:12
				2. He did not pray for his salvation to be restored.

Once someone is saved, they cannot lose their salvation.

* + 1. Sickness, broken homes, or a wayward child cannot take the joy out of our hearts.
			1. Only sin can take the joy out of our hearts.
		2. When someone is mean to us, this cannot take the joy from our hearts.
			1. It takes the joy out of the other person’s heart.
			2. Our reaction to what he does can take the joy out of our hearts.
				1. If we want to see who a person is, then don’t watch their actions.

Watch their reactions.

We can plan our actions, but our reactions show who we really are.

* + - 1. Matthew 5:11-12
		1. The only kind of sin that can take the joy out of our lives is our own sin.
			1. Not someone else’s sin.
	1. When we are justified, the burden of sin is gone.
		1. There is nothing between us and our Lord.
			1. That is when the joy begins to come.
			2. It is the joy of knowing that there is nothing between our soul and the Savior.
	2. The only thing that can erode away the joy is when we allow sin to come back in.
		1. Then, we are going to have to be like David.
			1. Psalm 51:12
				1. We receive this joy when we are saved, but we may need to have it restored.
		2. The most miserable person on Earth is not an unsaved person.
			1. The most miserable person on Earth is a saved person out of fellowship with God who has lost the joy of his salvation.
1. confidence (romans 5:1-2)
	1. Romans 5:1-2
		1. In this passage, the word “hope” means confidence based on the Word of God.
			1. It doesn’t mean “maybe so.”
			2. It literally means a rock-ribbed confidence based on the Word of God.
	2. A Christian has joy because a Christian has confidence.
		1. A Christian knows that no matter what happens to him, all things are working together by God for good, for His glory, and therefore our good.
			1. Romans 8:28
	3. The saddest word in the English language is “hopeless.”
		1. There is no situation that is hopeless for a child of God.
			1. This is the reason we have joy.
	4. The Bible teaches us to rejoice in hope.
		1. Romans 5:2
		2. Romans 12:12
	5. Joy is steadfast in sorrow and is triumphant in tribulation.
		1. 2 Corinthians 7:4
		2. God expects us to rejoice.
	6. This joy is lasting in losses.
		1. Hebrews 10:34
		2. If someone broke into your house and stole all of your possessions, then could you still have joy?
			1. If your joy comes from your possessions, then you would not have joy.
			2. If your joy comes from the Lord, then you would still have joy.
				1. The Bible never says to rejoice in things but to rejoice in the Lord.
				2. This is why the Christians in Hebrews 10:34 could “take joyfully the spoiling of their goods.”
	7. If our joy is coming from the Lord and He is enthroned in our hearts, then that joy cannot be taken away.
		1. The devil does not have the key that can get inside that treasury.
2. commitment (romans 5:1)
	1. Romans 5:1
		1. “Lord” means “sovereign.”
			1. It means authority and boss.
		2. The Apostle Paul had made Jesus Lord; therefore, he could rejoice.
	2. There must be a commitment to the Lord Jesus.
	3. Cleansing and confidence come with commitment.
		1. They cannot be separated.
		2. We cannot have cleansing and confidence unless we have a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
		3. Commitment is the secret of cleansing and staying clean.
	4. If we cannot trust Jesus with everything, then we cannot trust Him with anything.
		1. We need to yield ourselves completely to the Lord Jesus.
			1. Is there something that you are holding onto that is spoiling your joy?
		2. Someone has well said that if He is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all.
3. communion (romans 5:11)
	1. Romans 5:11
		1. Communion with our Lord.
		2. Galatians 5:22
		3. We are to rejoice in the Lord.
			1. It is the fruit of the Spirit.
	2. Joy is not found in circumstances; it is found in a Person.
		1. Philippians 4:4
		2. John 15:11
		3. John 17:13
	3. When we commune in the Lord Jesus Christ, His joy comes into us.
		1. It is not an imitation of His joy but His joy.
		2. It is not our joy but His joy.
	4. We rejoice in the Lord and through the Lord because joy is the fruit of the Spirit.
		1. We rejoice in God Himself.
		2. We do not produce this joy.
			1. It is produced by the Spirit in our lives.
			2. We bear this joy.
4. CONCLUSION
	1. It does not matter how much you own, how handsome or beautiful you are, or how “happy” you may be.
		1. If you do not have joy, then life is meaningless.
	2. To rejoice is a choice.
		1. This is the reason the Bible tells us to rejoice in the Lord.
			1. Philippians 4:4
			2. It is not automatic; it’s a choice.
		2. This choice begins with choosing Jesus and knowing Jesus.
			1. No Jesus, no joy.
			2. But if you know Jesus, then you will know joy.
	3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16