

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Joy Is an Inside Job

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 5:1-2

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1433

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Joy goes far beyond a smile.
 - i) A smile is outward, but joy is inward.
 - ii) A smile at its best can last a few hours, but joy is eternal.
- b) In the Greek language, the shortest verse in the Bible is 1 Thessalonians 5:16.
 - i) "Rejoice evermore."
- c) We can have fullness of joy.
- d) Joy is an inside job.
- e) We live in a generation that is seeking happiness.
 - i) Everyone thinks that the saying, "Don't worry, be happy," is good advice.
 - (1) This is terrible advice.
 - (a) We are not to be happy all of the time.
- f) What is the difference between happiness and joy?
 - i) 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.
 - (a) The Bible says that we are to rejoice in the Lord.
 - (i) Philippians 4:4
 - (b) Since the Lord never changes, we are to rejoice evermore.
 - ii) Happiness is cosmetic.
 - (1) Joy is like character.
 - iii) Happiness comes from outside circumstances.
 - (1) Joy comes from within.
 - iv) Happiness meets surface needs.
 - (1) Joy meets our deepest needs.
 - v) Happiness is like a thermometer that registers conditions.
 - (1) Joy is like a thermostat that regulates conditions.
 - vi) Happiness evaporates and disappears in times of suffering.
 - (1) Joy frequently intensifies in times of suffering.
 - (a) Joy is often intertwined with suffering.
 - vii) Happiness always works best when it is rooted in joy.
 - (1) If joy is overlayed with happiness, then it is a wonderful thing.
 - viii) Joy is not dependent upon happiness.
 - (1) It may function even better when happiness is taken away.
- g) It is cruel to tell people who are in sorrow to smile and be happy.
 - i) People are not happy all of the time.
 - (1) We are not expected to smile all of the time.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) Psalm 45:7

- h) This is a life of tragedy, sorrow, and heartache.
 - i) Yet, in sorrow and heartache and difficulty, we can have joy.
 - i) Happiness is an outside job; joy is an inside job.
 - j) Joy is important.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) A cold, dry faith has no appeal.
 - (2) When David got out of fellowship with God, he lost his joy.
 - (a) When he lost his joy, he stopped being a soul winner.
 - (i) Psalm 51:12-13
 - (3) Joy is the proof that what we have is real, and it satisfies.
 - (4) Joy is necessary to bringing unsaved people to Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Joy is necessary to living the Christian life.
 - (1) Psalm 100:2
 - (2) Nehemiah 8:10
 - (a) 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.
 - k) There are four ingredients to joy.
 - i) In today's message, we will look at four qualities of life that bring joy and that make life worth living.
- 2) A CLEANSED LIFE (ROMANS 5:1-2)
- a) To be clean and pure before God, to know that there is no sin between us and God, causes indescribable joy.
 - b) Romans 5:1-2
 - i) Joy comes from having peace with God.
 - (1) Peace with God comes by the grace of God.
 - (a) The grace of God brings justification.
 - (i) Justification brings joy.
 - ii) Faith brings justification, justification brings peace, and peace brings joy.
 - (1) Joy comes from knowing that our sins are forgiven.
 - c) What is justification?
 - i) Justification is a legal term.
 - ii) The Bible says that righteousness is reckoned to us.
 - (1) The word "reckoned" is a bookkeeping term.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) All of these have been put in a ledger.
- iv) 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."
- v) 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.
 - (a) Romans 4:6
 - (b) This is called justification.
- vi) When we are justified, we are clean and have great joy.
- d) Luke 10:1-20
 - i) Jesus sent seventy out with great power.
 - ii) They came back so happy and proclaimed that even the demons were subject to them in His name.
 - iii) 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.
- e) Sin takes the joy out of our lives.
 - i) 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."
 - (a) Psalm 51:12
 - (b) He did not pray for his salvation to be restored.
 - (i) Once someone is saved, they cannot lose their salvation.
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) If we want to see who a person is, then don't watch their actions.
 - (i) Watch their reactions.
 - (ii) We can plan our actions, but our reactions show who we really are.
 - (3) Matthew 5:11-12
 - iv) The only kind of sin that can take the joy out of our lives is our own sin.
 - (1) Not someone else's sin.
 - f) When we are justified, the burden of sin is gone.
 - i) 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.
 - g) The only thing that can erode away the joy is when we allow sin to come back in.
 - i) Then, we are going to have to be like David.
 - (1) Psalm 51:12
 - (a) We receive this joy when we are saved, but we may need to have it restored.
 - ii) 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.
- 3) CONFIDENCE (ROMANS 5:1-2)
- a) Romans 5:1-2
 - i) 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.
 - b) A Christian has joy because a Christian has confidence.
 - i) 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
 - c) The saddest word in the English language is “hopeless.”
 - i) There is no situation that is hopeless for a child of God.
 - (1) This is the reason we have joy.
 - d) The Bible teaches us to rejoice in hope.
 - i) Romans 5:2
 - ii) Romans 12:12
 - e) Joy is steadfast in sorrow and is triumphant in tribulation.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 7:4
 - ii) God expects us to rejoice.
 - f) This joy is lasting in losses.
 - i) Hebrews 10:34
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) The Bible never says to rejoice in things but to rejoice in the Lord.
 - (b) This is why the Christians in Hebrews 10:34 could “take joyfully the spoiling of their goods.”
 - g) If our joy is coming from the Lord and He is enthroned in our hearts, then that joy cannot be taken away.
 - i) The devil does not have the key that can get inside that treasury.

4) COMMITMENT (ROMANS 5:1)

- a) Romans 5:1
 - i) “Lord” means “sovereign.”
 - (1) It means authority and boss.
 - ii) The Apostle Paul had made Jesus Lord; therefore, he could rejoice.
- b) There must be a commitment to the Lord Jesus.
- c) Cleansing and confidence come with commitment.
 - i) They cannot be separated.
 - ii) We cannot have cleansing and confidence unless we have a commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
 - iii) Commitment is the secret of cleansing and staying clean.
- d) If we cannot trust Jesus with everything, then we cannot trust Him with anything.
 - i) We need to yield ourselves completely to the Lord Jesus.
 - (1) Is there something that you are holding onto that is spoiling your joy?
 - ii) Someone has well said that if He is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all.

5) COMMUNION (ROMANS 5:11)

- a) Romans 5:11
 - i) Communion with our Lord.
 - ii) Galatians 5:22
 - iii) We are to rejoice in the Lord.
 - (1) It is the fruit of the Spirit.
- b) Joy is not found in circumstances; it is found in a Person.
 - i) Philippians 4:4
 - ii) John 15:11
 - iii) John 17:13
- c) When we commune in the Lord Jesus Christ, His joy comes into us.
 - i) It is not an imitation of His joy but His joy.
 - ii) It is not our joy but His joy.
- d) We rejoice in the Lord and through the Lord because joy is the fruit of the Spirit.
 - i) We rejoice in God Himself.
 - ii) We do not produce this joy.
 - (1) It is produced by the Spirit in our lives.
 - (2) We bear this joy.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) It does not matter how much you own, how handsome or beautiful you are, or how “happy” you may be.
 - i) If you do not have joy, then life is meaningless.
- b) To rejoice is a choice.

- i) 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.
- ii) 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.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16