

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Joy

Passage: Psalm 98

Introduction: Pastor Alex led us to think about joy in his sermon Sunday, noting that we can have joy because: 1) God has worked salvation; 2) He has revealed His salvation to the nations; and 3) He will judge the world. Jesus' words in John 15:11 remind us that He came to give us lasting joy:

John 15:11

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

Additional passages: Exodus 15:1-12, Isaiah 33:22, Gal. 3:7-9, Titus 2:11-14, 2 Peter 1:3-9, Revelation 7:9

Additional resources: [Preaching the Gospel to Yourself](#), a brief article by pastor Joe Thorn that Alex cited in his sermon.

Questions:

1. A lot can be going well in our lives, but if we have not dealt with the problem of our sin, we are still condemned by a holy God. How do you know you are in good standing with God?
2. To live as joyful people in every circumstance, Alex said we must regularly preach the gospel to ourselves. Read Titus 2:11-14, 2 Peter 1:3-9. What do these passages reveal about what impact the gospel should have on our lives?
3. Alex quoted these words by pastor Joe Thorn: "Preaching the gospel to ourselves is calling ourselves to return to Jesus for forgiveness, cleansing, empowerment, and purpose."
 - What forgiveness and cleansing does God offer through the gospel?
 - What empowerment does God offer through the gospel?
 - What purpose does God offer through the gospel?
4. Verses 4-6 teach that God has revealed salvation to the entire world. Alex said this means salvation is available to anyone who has faith in Jesus (Cf. Gal. 3:7-9). How is it going with your life being characterized by joy because of God's salvation in your life?
5. Alex noted that the psalmist says God's coming judgment is reason for joy, because God's judgment refers to His sovereign, powerful, good, and wise rule (Cf. Isaiah 33:22). What is comforting about God's judgment being the final word over all things? What is practically applicable about this truth when someone sins against you? How about when you face injustice?