

The Joy of Knowing Salvation in Christ

December 11, 2016

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Luke 2:8-11; John 15:1-11; John 16:16-24

Pastor Mark W. Turner

Advent - means "coming". Looks in anticipation at Christ's 1st & 2nd coming

Joy—the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires

John Piper: *Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the word and in the world.*

Christ Alone brings biblical joy - Luke 2:8-11

- The whole Christian message from beginning to end is Good News of great joy!
Luke 2:8-11; Isaiah 51:1-11 (11)
- Becoming a Christian is finding a joy that makes you willing to forsake everything!
Matt 13:44 – a parable in 1 verse! Note the value of the kingdom
- Jesus' completed work and our resting in His work brings a Christian unimaginable joy
John 15:1-11 – I have spoke to you than your joy may be full - listen up!
v2-3 every branch in me, you are clean...
v4 abide in me
v5 Who is the vine? What does that mean? Where do we get strength?
v7 We bring God glory as we abide in Christ... and bear fruit
v10 not by an alone faith, but faith that produces obedience – can't separate, just don't get the wrong order!
v11 God's purpose for salvation is about joy
Piper: "God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him."
Beware of cynicism which leads to lack of joy, instead abide in Christ with a child-like faith (Mt 18:1-6)
- If your joy is in Christ, no one can every take your joy from you!
John 16:16-24 – Christ's work is key to our joy, not our circumstances.
We are to ASK for joy – like father (Mark 9:24)
We find joy as we commit to God's way because Jesus saved us: Jn 15:10-11
We find joy in God's Word: Psalms 198; Psalm 119:14
We find joy in God's sovereignty & actions of judgment: Psalm 48:11; Psalm 97:10-12

Discuss:

- what kills your joy in life? How do these truths change things?
- what is the difference between having joy and having no problems in life?
- how does abiding in Christ (Jn 15) bring us joy?
- what does it mean to ask for joy? How can we do that in prayer?

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