

Woodlands

1 Peter 1:1-12

My challenge to you all is to answer yourself: What gives me joy?

Our Sermon comes out of 1 Peter 1:1-12

I have been trying to focus on The qualities of a Christian.

We were in Thessalonians talking about the qualities of the church, then talking about how the individual believers cared for each other, now we are going to discuss what do we get our joy from.

Your character is what God knows you to be; your reputation is what men think you are.
-Bob Jones Sr.

Peter and Judas, Both followed Jesus, only one truly followed.

Peter went on to be the The foundation builder of the Christian Church as we are today.

Simon vs. Peter

Simon was what we see Jesus calling him when he was being rebuked

Matthew 16:18 He gets the name Peter

We see Jesus on several occasions refer to Peter as Simon.
Like a mother or father...JOSEPH WILLIAM FROEHLINGSDORF

More People knew me by my full name growing up than just Joe!

Peter went on to be the builder of the Church in his ministry and was eventually crucified upside down at his request because he said he was not worthy to be crucified as Christ.

Judas betrayed Jesus and ultimately hung himself and he split in half and his innards poured out as we read in scripture.

Where does our Joy come from?

I have been asked many times, "Why are you so happy all the time?"

We remember as Children singing "this little light of mine"
Do people see the light in us?

Think about what "the light of the earth" means

2 things in the story I will point out

1. I was looking for the light to guide me back on the path
2. Are we as Christians holding back the light?
Can the light be seen in us? Are we sharing the light?

Our joy gets its quality from what we want... WHAT DOES MY HEART DESIRE???

Things that make me happy.... I am happy when I do this.....

Luke 6:45

What Fills our heart?

1Peter 1:1-12

Focusing on verses 3-8

4 Reasons for a Christian to be Joyful according to this passage

Peter is speaking to believers here as we see in verses 1-3

1. We have a LIVING HOPE!

Verse 3 A "Living Hope" - an eager confident expectation of the life that is to come.
-this grows increasingly stronger as a christian grows and matures.

1. comes from God Ps 43:2
2. Is a gift from grace 2 Th 2:16
3. Is defined by scripture :**Romans 15:4** For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
5. Is secured by the resurrection of Jesus Christ Jn11:25, 26, 14:19

Here Peter is encouraging his readers to praise God. Who is a helpful remedy to hearts weighed down with discouragement because of suffering they had been enduring.

- By His great mercy, we have been born again.
- In blessing God, Peter first mentions the new spiritual life that God has given to His people.

Hebrews 10:34. Read...

For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

Verse 4:

The object of our salvation is a an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading.

Note- We only see this word for imperishable used in Scripture

1. God Himself
2. God's Word
3. Our resurrected bodies

1 Peter 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Literally the crown which is eternal glory.

in competition they received a crown which was made of a vine.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reason 1 to be joyful is to remember that we have a living hope.

Verse 5:

2.Our salvation is secure!

No one can steal a Christian's salvation, not only to keep the inheritance but to keep the believer secure.

This word for protected is the same as the word used as guarded in a military sense. "Kept safe" or "carefully watched" Literally -kept from escaping and protected from attack.

We see in the verse that our salvation is not guarded for a temporary goal but one that is "ready to be revealed on the last time"

God will accomplish the purpose of preservation of believers until we all receive our heavenly goal!

"Who are protected through faith"

- Not that our faith protects us as long as we believe, but where there is continuance, there is true faith. **Saving faith has the quality of permanence.**

Protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time!

- referring to salvation in the future tense***

Have we fully trusted in Christ for forgiveness from our sins?

Matthew 7:22 - 23

This is a sign of never having a true faith, even the devils and demons believe in God.

But for the one who truly believes there is assurance

Romans 8:38

Convinced - greek word peitho which means believe , assured, or have confidence in.

Reason 2 to be joyful is to remember that we have a secure salvation

3. We will overcome Verse 6-7

Verse 6

"In this you rejoice" Referring to the entire future hope as they were faced with continual persecution and various trials.

Rejoice, being present tense meaning continual rejoicing

-It is not long lasting "Even though for a short while" What is 70 years when you compare it to eternity?

-Trouble Serves a purpose

-Trouble causes turmoil (distressed)

- Trouble comes in various forms (trials)

-Trouble should not diminish the Christian's joy (greatly rejoice)

How can we rejoice in trials?

1. Genesis 22 Abraham

2. Job 1:20-22

The blessings that are to come. We came into this world with nothing, we will leave with nothing.

Jeremiah 29:11

Peter refers to our suffering as being for a little while.

The result of our suffering is The PROOF of our faith is more precious than Gold!

The Lord tests us to test the reality of our faith as Christians, It is for our purpose, not His. The Lord knows our Hearts and where we stand.

Think of a Doctor taking an exam, it isn't the teacher that benefits, its the doctor to be. He needs to be able to do his job.

It is like us Christians, We are tested, and when we pull through, we can rejoice.

Trials will show us where we need to be. Not to destroy us.

** This entire section is devoted to declaring facts about the Believers lives. whereas his commands concerning the Christian's life do not begin until verse 13. So based on this, we can say "continue rejoicing"

We see that the Christian life is not all joy however, as we see he talks about "though for a little while" He is saying, rejoice even though you may be suffering grief!

Verse 7

We see a fuller explanation here of the divine purpose behind the grief which Christians will experience.

Gold is and has been for ever the most precious of metals, but it is also perishable. Peter is here comparing something that is greatly sought after and tangible to something that is eternal.

At the rapture, we will be together with Christ!

Reason 3 to be joyful is to remember that we will overcome! it is just for a “short while”.

4. We find joy in personal fellowship with Jesus Christ

Verse 8

Love- agapao, or a continual or regular activity.

The believers Peter is writing to have never seen the Lord. This implies a personal daily relationship with the ascended Lord Jesus.

This is the same for us! We believe in Him who we do not see.

Believe, - Trust or rest one's peace or confidence in or depend upon.

Where does this personal fellowship come from?

Through Prayer, Worship and reading His word. 1 Peter 2:2-3

When all else fails, we know we have Jesus... But sadly it should before all else fails!

2 Corinthians 5:7- We walk by faith not by sight!

3 things to point out

Loving- Being spiritually attracted to

believe or Trusting- Personally relying on what Christ Promises and what he says

Joy in Christ- The deep good feelings in loving and believing in Him as precious.

There is 2 key ingredients in a relationship Love and Trust

If either one is compromised, the relationship is weakened.

a personal question: Do I really Love the Lord? Why or Why not? Do I trust the Lord, Have I trusted In Jesus' Death and resurrection?

Conclusion: Are we joyful? Do People know it? Do we give an answer?

1 peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Why are we joyful?

1.We have a living hope 2.Our salvation is secure 3.We will overcome4.We find Joy in personal fellowship