

Joy to the World | 1 Peter 1:3-16

Making room for Jesus

- 4 Themes (Hope, Love, Joy, Peace)
- 2 Advents and Waiting

The Hobbit (The Desolation of Smaug)

- Advent is about waiting
- But it is a certain kind of waiting—we know the outcome—the end of the story (read the book)
- Even in the worst moments there is at least **the hope of joy**

Joy is a Christmas thing

- “Joy to the World” and “I bring you good news of a great joy” –Luke 2:10
- Elusive (the season—busy and sad)

Joy is a Christian thing

- Romans 14:17
For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and **joy in the Holy Spirit.**
- Nehemiah 8:10
...Don't be dejected and sad, for **the joy of the LORD is your strength!**

Joy is what God wants for His people—for the whole world!

- Luke 2:10
I bring you good news that will bring great joy **to all people**
- Psalm 30:11
You have turned my **mourning into joyful dancing.** You have taken away my clothes of mourning and **clothed me with joy...**
- John 15:11
I have told you these things so that you will be **filled with My joy.** Yes, **your joy will overflow!**
- Galatians 5:22
But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, **joy...**
- Psalm 16:11
You will make known to me the path of life; **in Your presence is fullness of joy;** in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
- Jude 24-25
Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, **and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,** to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Our God is a God of Joy

- 1 Chronicles 16:27
Honor and majesty surround Him; strength and joy fill his dwelling.

His work is a work of joy for Himself and the whole world

- Hebrews 12:2
We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. **Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame.** Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.
- Luke 15:10
There is **joy in heaven over one sinner who repents**
- Psalm 67:4
Let the whole world **sing for joy, because** you govern the nations with justice and guide the people of the whole world.

The joy of God is brought to the world in Christ

- Luke 2:10
“Don't be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!”
 - Through God's love gift of giving us Himself
 - Response = Joy (in both advents)

But what about real life right now? Joy is elusive... (Christmas, Christian, God, God's work, Christ)

- **Joy is a feeling**
 - Deeper than mere happiness
 - Grounded in something more than mere circumstances
 - Happiness is about things going our way
 - **Joy involves something more... it has to do with going God's way**
- **Joy is a command**
 - Psalm 100:2
Worship the Lord with gladness, come before Him singing with joy.
 - Philippians 4:4
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- **Joy is a gift**
 - Isaiah 29:19
The humble will be filled with fresh joy from the LORD.
 - Romans 15:13
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How do we experience this joy?

Having joy involves a promise (1 Peter 1:3-5)

- Inheritance
 - The fullness of our salvation (3 tenses)
 - Inheritance = Isaiah 35
 - Ready to be revealed on the last day (v. 5)
 - Pure and undefiled (untouched by the effects of the fall)
 - Beyond the reach of change and decay (lasting—no entropy, rust, dust, outdating)
 - We live with great expectation (v. 3)
- Grounded in the Resurrection

Verse 6

Having joy involves some pain (1 Peter 1:6-7)

- Knowing the end of the story
 - John 16:22
So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.
- Testing = to strengthen not to flunk
- Yields greater joy as we trust more (vv. 8-9)
 - Psalm 34:5
Those who look to Him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.
 - Psalm 34:8
Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him!
 - Psalm 84:5
What joy for those whose strength comes from the LORD

Having joy in involves trust and faith (I Peter 1:8-9)

- Between Advents

Having joy involves continual pronouncement (I Peter 1:10-12)

- The prophets
- The angels
- The church
- The Holy Spirit
- You!
- = Joy in 1st Advent
 - Psalm 51:8
Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice.
 - Psalm 32:1–2
Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!
- = Joy in 2nd Advent
 - Romans 5:2
Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.
- For those of us who have lost someone this year

Let me tell you where this ends...

Having joy involves obedience (I Peter 1:13-16)

- The Good News always leads to good behavior—The Gospel changes us and our affections and allegiances
- Sometimes we do not experience joy because we are so committed to pursuing mere happiness
- We think we want happiness—which generally involves **things going our way and getting what we want**
- But we actually want joy—which involves us **going God's way and giving Him what He wants**
 - Psalm 119:1–2
Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts.
 - Psalm 19:8
The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.
 - Psalm 32:11
So rejoice in the LORD and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

This is what it means to live in expectation of Advent

- That forgiveness has been brought to us (1st) **and** restoration is coming to us (2nd)
- So we live in a better way **and** with great expectation **by** the power of the Holy Spirit
- Even though we have many trials, tests and pains now—we live in obedient expectation
 - Psalm 119:143
As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands.

Psalm 90:14

Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, **so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives.**

Faith, expectation, trials and obedience

Colossians 1:11

We also pray that (we) will be strengthened with all (Your) glorious power so (that we) will have all the endurance and patience (we) need. **May (we) be filled with joy** (in and by the Holy Spirit)