

Rejoice In The Lord

Philippians 4:4

I. Joy A Prominent Subject In The Bible.

- Occurrences in both the Old and New Testament: “joy” 165 times; “rejoice” 192 times; “rejoicing” 28 times.
- The difference between “joy” and “happiness”.
 - “Happiness” an emotion related to currently happening. A temporary emotion.
 - “Joy” an attitude of the heart, not necessarily base on something positive happening at a given moment in time. Does not depend on outward circumstances. (Phil. 4:11)

II. Christians Rejoice Because Of...

The Past.

- Not the past when sin condemned, but obedience to the gospel that brought about the forgiveness of sins.
 - Eph. 2:12-13 → you were without hope, without God, etc. But now in Christ Jesus you are made near by the blood of Christ.
 - Joy in repentance → Lk. 15:7,10; II Cor. 7:9
 - Joy in salvation → Lk. 10:20; Acts 8:39; 16:34; Rom. 5:10-12
- Those who are Christians can look at the past in a vastly different light than those who have never obeyed the gospel.
 - All have done, said, thought things in the past they now regret, but having been forgiven can “forget” and press on to the goal of eternal life.
 - The sinner does not have that joy.

The Present.

- Eph. 1:3-14 → we now have all spiritual blessings in Christ
- We have the truth. (Jn. 17:17; 8:32; I Cor. 2:9-13; II Tim. 3:16-17)
- Joy...
 - comes from walking in the truth. (I Cor. 13:6; III Jn. 4)
 - in the greatest work. (Phil. 2:17-18; II Cor. 4:1; Rom. 14:17)
 - when our present circumstances are less than perfect. (Matt. 5:12; Acts 5:41; James 1:2)
 - in a spiritual family into which God has adopted us. (Rom. 15:32; II Cor. 7:13; Phil. 2:2; Rom. 1:12)

The Future.

- John 15:11; 16:24; I Jn. 3:4 → that your joy may be complete.
- God has made provisions so that we may have a complete, mature, perfect joy.
 - Something that the world does not have.
 - Something that will be had in its ultimate fullness only in the next life. (Rev. 21:4)
 - We are saved by the hope of that ultimate joy. (Rom. 8:24; Phil. 2:16; Matt. 25:21; Jn. 4:36; 16:22)