

Sharing yourself and your Faith

As one with Hope and Joy I Thessalonians 2:13-20

Why would anyone want to be a Christian like me?

What was it that turned the world upside down after the resurrection?

Power? – Wealth? - Education? – Organization/structure? -No

The power of the resurrected Lord working in them – more than enough!

They were ordinary people with faith in an extraordinary God

They were filled with the Spirit of God

The outcome was they were filled with hope and joy – the desire of all

Review – To win the lost you must share ourselves and your faith

1. As one entrusted with a treasure 2:1-4
 2. As a nursing mother sacrificing her life for her child 2:5-9
 3. As a compassionate father encourages and challenges 2:10-12
- As one with Hope and Joy!! 2:13-20

I. Reasons for our Hope

What is Biblical Hope – confident expectation, a firm assurance regarding the things that are unclear and unknown Romans 8:24-25

Faith -the assurance of what we hope Hebrews 11:1

- A. The Word (Gospel) is God's Word not ours 13
It is the power of God to salvation – Romans 1:16
- B. The troubles we face cannot destroy the power of God 14-16
Persecutions are common to believers 2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. God is faithful and will deliver 1 Corinthians 10:13
- C. The hinderances of Satan will be turned to victories 17-18
God has the final word – we win!
- D. Christ is coming again! 19-20
The word is "Parousia" meaning His presence
We will "see" and understand all then with Him 1 John 3:2

II. Reasons for our Joy

Definition "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." Permanent possession based on our hope in Christ 1 Peter 1:3

- A. Some will receive the Word and be changed
Received – take in and Accepted – welcomed
Appreciated – from God
Appropriated – welcomed "hearing with the heart"
Applied – energized to become "imitators of faith"

B. They will become a part of the family of God

Pleasing to God, Enduring, Unity with all believers

C. They become our glory and joy

"Our" reminds us that spreading the Gospel is a team effort

Salvation is our Hope for others fulfilled

Joy of helping another come to faith is like our salvation joy

Crown of exaltation – not kings crown but winners crown

D. We will all join with Christ at His Coming

The dead in Christ and those living at His coming 4:16-17

Questions I need to ask myself

1. Is my life reflecting the desire of God for me

My (Christ's) purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. John 10:10

I (Christ) have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy.

Yes, your joy will overflow! John 15:11

2. Am I living in such a way to draw others to Him?

Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give

spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have

everything. 2 Corinthians 6:10

3. Am I prepared to give a reason of the Hope?

You must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 1 Peter 3:15-16

What to do if my joy is missing

1. Check your heart

– sin? Is Christ on the throne as Lord?

2. Check your goals

– What are you striving for? What makes you happy?

3. Check your focus

– Are you living for comfort, wealth or influence?

All are invited to join us as we celebrate 50 years of God's blessing on our marriage – Saturday June 29th 2pm – 5 pm