

Happiness vs. Rejoicing

Luke 2:8-20

Where is Happiness?

Not in Unbelief	Voltaire was an infidel of the profound type He wrote "I wish I had never been born"
Not in Pleasure	Lord Byron lived a life of supreme pleasure He wrote "The worm, the canker bad grief are mine alone"
Not in Money	Jay Gould, an American millionaire When dying, wrote "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth"
Not in Position	Queen Elizabeth wrote on her death bed "I would give all my wealth and my power to be granted 1 more day"
Not in Military Glory	Alexander the Great conquered the known world of his day Wept in his tent "There are no more worlds to conquer"

Where then is happiness found? The answer is simple, in Christ alone

HAPPINESS

Root word "Happening"
While I am doing something, I am Happy
Activity oriented

John 13:7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

Ex – Fellowship Wed night...Happy while it was going on, sad when it ended

Creates – Entertainment Society
Looking for Pleasure

REJOICE

Means to Re-visit my Joy
I can do that over and over again at my will
Wholesome oriented

Neh 8:10 ...the joy of the LORD is your strength.
1John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.
Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

We are commanded to Rejoice

1. REJOICE IN CHRISTMAS

- Matt 1:23* Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
- Luke 2:10* And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- Luke 2:20* And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

We can REJOICE because God has visited His people
God did not send an angel to take His place
God did not ignore the needs of His people
God took on the heart of a man so that man can understand the heart of God

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman

Roman Proxana – Time of Peace

Greek Language – Time of Understanding

Thanksgiving, New Year... Lord is the center of our attention, we can enjoy it over and over

2. REJOICE IN SALVATION

1Sam 2:1 And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

Luke 2:29-30 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

WE can REJOICE that God has sent a Savior

I did not need a Program

I did not need Religion

I did not Government

I needed someone to save me from my worst enemy – Myself

Story – Lester Roloff being picked up in LA, Preacher had the driver tell him about time he got saved... Said “Every time you hear a testimony, its like getting saved all over again”

Song – I remember the day when the Lord saved me

3. REJOICE IN THE GOSPEL

1Cor 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

2Pet 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Story – Teenager being asked about Christmas

“Isn’t that where someone died or something”... He had no idea about the Gospel

We can REJOICE that we have a solid foundation to build upon

4. REJOICE IN SOUL WINNING

Matt 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven:

Story – Man on Signal Mtn, pulled a gun on me when I began to witness to him
I kept going back, he got saved 7 years later
I remember his 1st Christmas as a saved man

Story – 2 men talking about the Bible... “Do you believe all that junk about turning water into wine?” “I believe one better than that, I saw the whiskey turned into bread”
His Daddy prayed and got saved and started bring home food instead of liquor

We can REJOICE that men everywhere can be saved, no matter how bad or how hardened

5. REJOICE IN HEAVEN

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

My name is in the book of life
Oh bless the name of Jesus
I rise above all doubt and strife
And read my title clear
I know, I know my name is there
I know, I know my name is written there

Story – Charles Spurgeon emphasizing to his students about correct facial expressions
“When you speak of Heaven, let your face light up, let it be radiant with a heavenly gleam, let your eyes shine with reflected glory. But when you speak of Hell, the your ordinary face will do.”

We can REJOICE that this world is not our home