

THE Christmas Carol: Week #2 Joy To the World

December 11, 2022

Text: Psalm 98

Introduction:

Big Idea: When your focus is upon the LORD (YAHWEH) it feeds the soul with unshakeable _____.

1. Joy comes from knowing the LORD is the _____ of his people (1-3)

- The name Yahweh (LORD) comes from the Hebrew word for “_____.” (Exodus 3:14-15)
The name speaks of the self-existence and self-sufficiency of God.
- *Yahweh* is the name of Israel’s God and the God who came to earth as _____

2. Joy directed to the LORD is _____ (4-6)

- Joy described:
 - Happiness is what happens to you; joy is what is produced in you.
 - Happiness is fickle; joy is sturdy, confident and unshakable.
 - Happiness is dictated by the circumstances; joy is dictated by the truth and is a gift from God
 - We are commanded to find joy in God...anything less is _____.
 - Joy—a Holy Spirit generated GIFT of optimism based upon the truth found in Jesus Christ the LORD.
- We are commanded to make a joyful noise to LORD who reigns as sovereign King over all the earth.
- God's sovereignty is best understood as, "God is in _____"

3. Find Joy in the LORD who will Judge justly over all the nations (7-9)

Truth Into Action: SING JOY TO THE WORLD

- FIND JOY in the LORD who came into the world to be our Savior.
- FIND JOY in the LORD because he is the sovereign, good and righteous King over all the earth.
- FIND JOY in the LORD because he is returning as Judge over all the nations.

SERMON CONNECT CARD (Go on the FBC app and complete the digital card at the CONNECT tab or complete a paper card)

- **How does Jesus as LORD create joy in your life?**
- How can we pray for you?



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

****As a community group discuss the possibility of making December 18th 4-6pm (All church Christmas caroling event) your group meeting.**

Table Talk

Warm Up: Is choosing joy a big deal in the life of a child of God? Discuss with those in your group.

1. Read Luke 2:8-12, Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 1:11, 4:6-7, Romans 8:28 and James 1:2-4
2. Distinguishing the difference between happiness and joy:
 - Happiness is what happens to you; joy is what is produced in you.
 - Do you tend to focus on circumstances? Explain your answer:
 - What do you tend to find yourself often putting in the fill-in-the-blank? I'd be happy if _____ happened.
 - Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you find most difficult to find in your life?
 - Happiness is fickle; joy is sturdy, confident, and unshakable.
 - Do you find it easy to be full of joy? Why or why not?
 - Do you feel anchored in your faith or adrift?
 - Do you live knowing God loves you? That he is consistent? And that he fulfills his promises? Explain why or why not:
 - Happiness is dictated by the circumstances; joy is dictated by the truth and is a gift from God.
 - Are you in the habit of counting your blessings when things get hard?
 - If not, the next time problems start to arise and anxiety begins to take hold, take a moment and name five blessings in your life.
 - How has counting your blessings helped you see God's hand in your life?
 - Do you believe God works all things together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose? Explain. Would you count "all things" as joy?
3. How does an understanding of Yahweh or LORD make a difference in Psalm 98?
4. What fresh insight have you received on the carol **JOY TO THE WORLD** and how can you imagine that insight has helped you to have JOY in Jesus this Christmas?