



## **“Joy That Is Inexpressible”**

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:39-45, Heb. 12:1-2, 1 Peter 1:3-9  
Sunday | December 15th, 2019 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

### **CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:39-45  
Hebrews 12:1-2  
1 Peter 1:3-9

*(See also Js. 1:2; Rom. 5:3; Matt. 11:7-11; Jn. 1:1-2, 14; Php. 4:4-13)*

### **CONSULT THE SCHOLARS**

**[Michael Reeves]** *“Reliance on ourselves is no option in light of the cross. However fantastically marvelous we may think we are, the cross is God’s verdict on us as sinners. It annihilates even the possibility of finally placing our trust in ourselves. Meaning we can know a far greater assurance, anchoring it in firm ground outside of ourselves, in Christ. Christians are people who have given up all claims to both our badness and our goodness—and instead gotten him.”<sup>1</sup>*

### **DISCUSS**

1. What is the difference between joy and happiness?

2. Pastor Patrick talked about getting our anchor deeper. What did he mean by that? (c.f. Heb. 6:19)

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<sup>1</sup>Michael Reeves, *Rejoicing In Christ* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015), p. 62.

3. Read the above Reeves quote and discuss. What does he mean when he says, *“Christians are people who haven given up all claims to both our badness and our goodness - ”*?
  
4. Read *James 1:2, Romans 5:3, and Hebrews 2:1-2* and discuss. How is it possible to have joy amidst suffering?
  
5. Read *1 Peter 1:3-9* and discuss. What is *“joy that is inexpressible”*? What might that kind of joy impact your Christmas this year?
  
6. What immediate applications can be made in light of this sermon?

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<sup>4</sup>*General Revelation: that which God has made known to all (i.e. generally) through what can be observed (see Rom. 1:20, Ps. 19:1-2). Special Revelation: that which is made known specifically by God to a specific people, namely by speaking (see 2 Tim. 3:16, Heb. 1:1-2, etc.).*