

Living Hope. Week 2 12/6/2020

“Joy in God’s Presence” FBCLA

Isaiah 9:1-5 Dr. Scott T. Arnold.

Introduction: *“Faces of Joy at Christmas”*

I. Joy that dispels gloom (Isaiah 9:1-2)

A. Distress and humility are followed by delight and honor (1) **1 *Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—***

B. Darkness is overcome by light (2) **2 *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.***

II. Joy that enlarges our hearts. (Isaiah 9:3-5)

A. To rejoice in God’s Kingdom hope. (3) **3 *You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.***

B. To rejoice in overcoming injustice. (4) **4 *For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.***

C. To rejoice in overcoming evil and knowing lasting peace (5) **5 *Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire***

Conclusion: Joy that is answered in the face of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Passage:

1 *Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—*

2 *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

3 *You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.*

4 *For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.*

5 *Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.. (Isaiah 9:1-5)*

Questions/Activities:

1. How has the Corona Virus impacted your life as far as feeling disconnected with others? How has not seeing people “face to face” been a challenge?
2. Write a list of what gives you JOY at Christmas and then use this list to make an ornament or Christmas card/post card to post on your refrigerator. Share your list with others on Facebook or in a text or email. You could even let people know by phone or in person.
3. How does this Scripture passage encourage us to believe that God will help us overcome the trials and troubles of life?