

## PART TWO HANDOUT: GREAT JOY

### KEY: Seeking Happiness is a Roller Coaster That Never Reaches The Intended Ultimate End!

You See...You may feel happy...Or You may feel sad...You may look forward to Christmas Day OR...You may Look Forward to the Day After...**BUT... How You Feel About it Really has Nothing to Do With Whether or Not You Experience the JOY of Christmas!** READ LUKE 2:8-11

The “Great JOY” spoken of here is a Divine Blessing – NOT a Human Feeling! Luke is telling us that God’s Eternal Love has been Revealed through Jesus Christ, God’s Son our Savior...**And that’s Great JOY!**

There is One Thing On Which Christians, Jews and most other Religions Agree: The Entire Human Race Was in Need of a Deliverer – Someone to Deliver them From the Curse of Sin that had Invaded the World When Adam and Eve Disobeyed God! Christians Believe that the Bible is God’s Revelation of Himself to Mankind...The Bible Makes Clear that Jesus Christ Was and Is God’s Final Revelation of Himself to the World. **So, the Good News of JOY was GREAT Because the Time had Finally Come for God to Send His “Deliverer.”**

It was Jesus, Gods Son, who Came to Save All People from their Sins By Becoming God Incarnate... (Immanuel) Living a Sinless Life and Humbling Himself...Nailed to a Roman Cross, He Took the Punishment that was to Be Ours Upon Himself. Therefore...We Have Great JOY – Because the Savior has been Born.

- We Have Great JOY – Because God’s Promise of a Deliverer has been Fulfilled.
- We Have Great JOY – Because the Lord Himself has Come to Dwell Among Us.
- We Have Great JOY –Because His Spirit Empowers Us to Experience JOY Midst Turmoils, Trials, and Adversity as Well as When Things Are Running Smoothly.

We’re told in Hebrews that *“For the JOY set before Him Jesus Endured the Cross”* *Midst of Great Agony Jesus Saw the Outcome would be JOY for those who believe and Receive Him as Lord and Savior.*

### Jesus Brought JOY Into the World in Many Ways:

1. **Jesus Brought Joy into the World in Several Practical Ways.** Every time He healed a person, cast out a demon, or forgave a sin, JOY was the immediate result. John 3:29 Makes Clear that those who recognized Jesus as the promised Savior and Redeemer of the world were filled with Joy.
2. **Humanity Yearns for Hope, for Meaning and Purpose.**
  - Within every human heart is the nknowledge of Eternity, even if we don’t recognize it as such.
  - Ecclesiastes 3:11, *“He set eternity in the human heart”*.
  - Without God as a vital part of our existence, only Emptiness and Futility remain.
  - The world was lost in darkness before Jesus came the first time. God had not spoken through His prophets for over 400 years. The period between Malachi and Matthew is Silent, Setting the Stage for the greatest event of all time: God would become Man (Immanuel) and live among us **John 1:14**
  - When the angel announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds in the field, He said, *“Do Not be Afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people”* (**Luke 2:10**).
  - That “Great Joy” was the Truth that the God who had seemed far off had come to them in human flesh. He was to be called “Immanuel,” which means “God with us” (Isaiah 9:6–7; Matthew 1:23).
  - Those who saw Him...Saw the Face of God (John 14:9). He had come to rescue, to save, to heal, and to make mankind right with God (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:17–21). That was cause for Great Joy!

Because Jesus came, sinful human beings have an opportunity to come into the presence of a Holy God and be Pronounced “NOT GUILTY” **2 Corinthians 5:21 Mark 15:38 John 3:16–18**

- When Jesus rose from the dead, He conquered death for every person who trusts in Him (1 Corinthians 15:53–56). **That is Cause for Great JOY!**

Jesus ascended back into heaven to “prepare a place” for all those who follow Him (John 14:1–2). But He promised that He will come again, a second time, to establish His kingdom on earth.

- In this kingdom righteousness and justice will reign, and God’s people will have places of honor (Micah 4; Isaiah 11; Matthew 19:28–29). The troubles of this life are not the end. Jesus told His followers, “Take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).
- The knowledge that soon we will live and reign forever with our Lord is cause for Great JOY!
- Let’s Look again at the Scene where the Shepherds are Watching their Flocks. **Luke 2:8-11**

Doug Goins paints a vivid picture of how shepherds were viewed in that day: The Shepherds were the lowest of the low socially-common men, a despised class with bad reputation. They were known as thieves because they were nomadic, and as they moved their sheep around the country, sometimes they got confused about what was “mine” and what was “thine.” They were all tarred with the same brush—untrustworthy, dishonest. They were not allowed to give testimony in a Jewish court of law. Their work made it impossible for them to observe the Jewish ceremonial laws and temple rituals, so they were considered religiously unclean and unacceptable.

- *When Christ came, his birth was first announced to the outcasts of society. They were the first ones to hear the good news of Christmas.*

**There is An Important Lesson in this for All of Us.** Our Lord came for the forgotten people of the earth and most of the time they are the ones who receive him with the greatest joy.

- Jesus said in Mark 2:17 *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

**Application. The angel said, “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to You...” “Unto YOU.” “For YOU.” HE CAME FOR YOU!**

This is where Christmas Becomes Intensely Personal. It’s Not enough to say abstractly that You believe Christ came. Millions of people say that and are Still Lost in Their Sins.

***You can Never Be Saved Until You Say, “Christ Came For Me. He Fied For Me. He Rose From the Dead For Me.” AND YOU ACCEPT AND RECEIVE HIM AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR!***

In a few days Christmas will be here. Families will gather around the tree to open their Gifts...When You Receive Your Gifts this Christmas, I Am Sure You Will Open Every One! I Mean...What Use is a Gift that is Never Opened?

**POINT: 2000 years ago God sent a gift wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Jesus is God’s Christmas gift to you. But you will Never Experience Christmas JOY until You Personally Receive God’s Gift To YOU—the Lord Jesus Christ.**

This Month as we Prepare for Christmas Celebration...It is My Prayer That We Will Abstain from the Trappings of Holiday Busyness...INSTEAD...MAY WE SEE JESUS IN A FRESH WAY...AND MAY WE BE SO AMAZED AT THIS WONDERFUL GIFT...THAT WE MAKE HIM THE LORD OF OUR LIVES AND BE FILLED WITH “GREAT JOY!”

**BLESSING from Romans 15:13 “May the God of Hope Fill You With Great Joy and Peace as You Trust in Him, So That You May Overflow With Hope By the Power of the Holy Spirit”**

Merry Christmas!  
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