*Series, Good News for Troubling Times — Rediscover Christmas*

**Part 3: How to Rediscover Joy**

Sermon Notes

December 12, 2021

**Introduction**

Q: If you have to choose between happiness and joy, what would you choose?

Troubling Times

The last 2 years have been like no other, to put it mildly. Global pandemic, economic recession, unemployment, political division, cultural upheaval, racial reckoning, record wildfires, extra powerful hurricanes, devastating floods. Did I miss anything? Maybe whatever personal struggles you are facing are a result of those wide-scale events or completely unrelated. In whatever form they’ve come for you, the realities of life have been heavy and humbling. It’s the ideal setting for some joy.

Happiness is a result of **H**  & **C                                           .**

Definition of Biblical Joy:

Joy is gladness and contentedness, flowing out of the **W** -**S** of your **R**  with Jesus Christ, quite independent of your circumstances.

Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. —John 16:22

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 2:9-10 — An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

A tool for understanding the Bible:

Where there is a **REPETITION**, pay **ATTENTION!**

1 John 1:1-4

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim [declare] concerning the Word of life.

2 The life appeared [life was manifested]; we have seen it and testify to it [bear witness], and we proclaim [declare] to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared [was manifested] to us.

3 We proclaim [declare] to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

4 We write this to make our joy complete.

Theme & Goal:

**R**  joy in your **R**  with Jesus Christ

Relationship #1: Jesus is your **C** .

1 John 1:1

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim [declare] concerning the Word of life.

A tool for understanding the Bible:

The **A                    .**

The **R** .

The **O** .

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim [declare] concerning the Word of life.

**WORD OF LIFE**

The idea of the Logos, which is translated to ‘word,’ was important for John and for the Greek and Jewish worlds of his day. For the Jew, God was often referred to as the Word because they knew God perfectly revealed Himself in His Word. For the Greek, their philosophers had spoken for centuries about the Logos – the basis for organization and intelligence in the universe, the Ultimate Reason which controls all things.

John 5:26, “Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.”

John 6:48, “I am the bread of life.”

John 11:25, “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”

**Existing vs. Living**

Life not Bios, but Zoe: existing vs. Living  — Illustration: first class

The source of your joy is grounded in the truth that Jesus, the Divine Intelligent Designer has a purpose for you.

1. The Origin of the Universe

2. The Fine-Tuning of the Universe

Relationship #2: Jesus is your Creator in **F                          .**

The life appeared [life was manifested]; we have seen it and testify to it [bear witness], and we proclaim [declare] to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared [was manifested] to us. —1 John 1:2

A tool for understanding the Bible:

The **A                    .**

The **R** .

The **O** .

1 John 4:3

3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

2 John 1:7

I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

The source of your joy is discovered when you experience the Unknowable Creator in the person of Jesus Christ, who took on flesh.

Relationship #3.

Jesus is your **C**  in **F**  who desires **F**  with you.

Rediscover joy by experiencing fellowship with Jesus.

3 We proclaim [declare] to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.  4 We write this to make our joy complete. — 1 John 1:3-4

The idea of fellowship is one of the most important ideas in this letter of John’s. It is the ancient Greek word koinonia, which speaks of a sharing, a communion, a common bond and common life. It speaks of a living, breathing, sharing, loving relationship with another person.  The Greek word koinonia is derived from the word koinos, which very literally means common, in the sense of being shared by all. The use of the word in Acts 2:44 is very helpful: Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common. The word common is the ancient Greek word koinonia.

And God the Sons was with God the Father. The word with indicates that this being, who is eternal, and is eternal life Himself, is distinct from the Father. John builds the New Testament understanding of the Trinity – that one God exists as three Persons, equal and one, yet distinct in their person.

**CHRISTOCENTRIC**

Biblical Joy Endures All Things

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Because of Jesus and what He has done, Christians can walk in a kind of unshakable joy that the world can’t touch.

**APPLICATION**

Appropriate and apply the theme and goal in your houseChurch!