

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **Galatians 5:16-25; John 16:20-22.**
- B. We must realize that there is a difference between happiness and joy.
 - 1. Happiness, is something that is usually short lived. We can be happy one moment and then sad the next.
 - 2. Joy is a trait that is constant. It is a strong deep emotion that is relatively unchanged by most circumstances. A person either has a joyful type personality or doesn't. But this personality can change over a period of time.
- C. If you are a joyful person, this lesson will be of great encouragement to you. If you are not a joyful person this lesson is a must.

I. WHAT MAKES YOU JOYFUL?

- A. In **Jn. 16:20** Jesus speaks of His upcoming Passion when the world will rejoice over His death, but His followers will be sad. The promise given here is that those who rejoice in evil will be made sad and those who follow Jesus will be made joyful.
- B. Some things that make the world rejoice:
 - 1. The giving into temptation.
 - 2. The rationalization of sinful things as being acceptable.
 - 3. The thought of no punishment for doing evil.
 - 4. The explaining away of sinful acts so as to be able to do them.
 - 5. The defeat of those who are trying to do right.
- C. Some things that make Xians rejoice:
 - 1. Giving glory to God the Father through JC.
 - 2. Having sinners repent of their evil deeds.
 - 3. Watching Xians mature in the faith and saying no to temptation.
 - 4. Knowing that Jesus overcame all in His death and resurrection.
 - 5. Realizing there is an eternal reward for the faithful to God.

II. SORROW CAN BECOME JOY.

- A. **John 16:21** speaks of the tremendous pain that a woman knows while going through child birth. Yet, after she has delivered the child and her pain is gone, she has great joy over the child brought into the world.
- B. The analogy here is with X and the church. JC is to undergo the death, burial and resurrection necessary for the church (the child) to come into existence. Although the beating and death of Jesus brings us sorrow, that sorrow is turned into joy as we realize that by His death the church could be brought into being.
- C. The lesson from this verse, as to joy, is that even though some things may seem painful and sorrowful at the time, they may bring joy if endured (Heb. 12:10-11; Jas. 1:2-4).
(Heb 12:10-11) For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. **11** All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
(Jas 1:2-4) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

III. JOY CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY.

- A. **John 16:22** speaks of the joy the apostles would have in the resurrection of X. This joy could not be taken away by the sin of others. Even while the apostles were being hated, persecuted, scourged,

- and murdered they joyfully proclaimed to the world, "He is risen!"
- B. The purpose of Satan was totally frustrated by these 12 brave men and the great joy they had in knowing the resurrected X.
 - C. Since we believe in that same resurrection our joy should be just as strong and permanent. No one can take our joy away from us, only we can take it away from ourselves.

IV. **HAVING ALL JOY (SIX AREAS OF LIFE IN WHICH WE CAN HAVE JOY).**

- A. When there's money in the bank, a freezer full of beef, a good job, good health, and good friends it is very easy to have joy in one's life.
- B. But there are very, very few of us who enjoy all of those things above at the same time and if not, may have a problem being joyful. Let's see what the NT says about being joyful under different circumstances.
 - 1. Joyful in affliction.
We have the tools, ability, and wisdom to make it. When there is reason for confidence, there is reason to have joy even in affliction (2Cor. 7:4).
Great is my confidence in you, great is my boasting on your behalf; I am filled with comfort. I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.
 - 2. Keeping things in perspective.
We must always try to look at the overall picture and not the immediate. Discipline seems painful but produces much when endured (Heb. 10:34; Jas. 1:2; 1Pet. 4:12-13).
(Heb 10:34) For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.
(Jas 1:2) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
(1Pet 4:12-13) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.
 - 3. Suffering can lead to an ultimate good.
Jesus could suffer all things against Him because He knew of the ultimate good that He was to accomplish. Keep the goal always in mind and the struggle will be worth it (Heb. 12:2-3).
fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.
 - 4. Spiritual things are the most important.
Life is more important than food and drink. Get your priorities in line (Rom. 14:17; Phil. 1:4).
(Rom 14:17) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
(Phil 1:4) always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,
 - 5. The word of God gives joy.
John writes of the wonderful promises so that his joy can be complete. When we yield ourselves to the world we have no joy; and when we yield ourselves to the word we can have all joy (1Jn. 1:4).
And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.
 - 6. Rejoicing is found in the Lord.
There is no rejoicing in sin for very long, not much happiness. Only place we can and should rejoice is in the Lord (*Phil. 4:4*).

REVIEW AND CONCLUSION.

- A. Joy is not a roller coaster ride of ups and downs (that is happiness and sadness). Joy is a constant feeling of fulfillment and contentment that is relatively unaffected by the outside forces acting around us.
- B. Joy is a constant attitude a Xian can have because of what he has in X.

- C. We have now completed a look at love and joy. The next lesson will be on the attribute of the fruit of the HS which is peace.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.