

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 15:10-13**.
- B. From *The Bumps are What you Climb On* by W. Wiersbe (Ch. 25,26).
- C. When life becomes difficult, we have three lasting treasures on which to build our lives.

I. FIRST TREASURE: **JOY**.

- A. To have joy is to have delight, emotional profit, pleasure, happiness.
- B. In looking through the NT I have found the following about joy:
 - 1. Jesus wants us to have joy in our life (Jn. 15:11; 16:20,22; 1Jn. 1:4).
(Jn 15:11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full."
(Jn 16:20,22) "Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy... 22 "Therefore you too now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one takes your joy away from you."
(1Jn 1:4) And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.
 - 2. Joy comes from prayer (Jn. 16:24).
"Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be made full."
 - 3. Joy is a characteristic of the kingdom (Rom. 14:17; 15:13).
(Rom 14:17) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
(Rom 15:13) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. Joy is not affected by affliction or poverty (2Cor. 7:4; 8:2; 1Th. 1:6; Jas. 1:2).
(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.
(2Cor 8:2) that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.
(1Th 1:6) You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,
(Jas 1:2) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
 - 5. Joy comes from being united in Christ (Phil. 2:2; 1Th. 2:19,20; 3Jn. v4).
(Phil 2:2) make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
(1Th 2:19,20) For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.
(3Jn v4) I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.
 - 6. Joy is to be shared (Phil. 2:17-18).
But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. 18 And you too, *I urge you*, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.
 - 7. Joy is looking forward to future blessings (Heb. 12:2; Jude v24).
(Heb 12:2) 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.
(Jude v24) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

II. SECOND TREASURE: **PEACE**.

- A. Peace! What a word! It is the situation (*shalom* and *eirene*) when everything is safe, secure, sound, whole, complete, tranquil, harmonious, restful and in concord.

- B. Seven conditions or prerequisites for full fruition of peace in a Xian:
1. **Teaching.** Jesus promised to give peace (Jn. 14:27; 16:33), but He did not miraculously inject peace in the likeness of a hypodermic needle. Through the teachings of the HS we find the means to that end.
(Jn 14:27) “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”
(Jn 16:33) “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”
 2. **Gospel obedience.** How are those taught to receive peace? Not by a direct impartation, but by “the obedience of faith” we have “peace with God” (Rom. 1:5; 5:1).
(Rom 1:5) through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name’s sake,
(Rom 5:1) Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 3. **A growing faith.** The peace one enjoys after his baptism is maintained and increased as his faith in God and His promises grows (Isa. 26:3).
 “The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in Thee.”
 4. **A peaceful disposition.** I must be congenial, considerate, and willing to yield (Jas. 3:17).
 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.
 “If possible” as far as I can control the situation, I will “live in peace with all people” (Rom. 12:18).
(Rom 12:18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
 5. **Purity.** Before the Spirit’s peace is enjoyed by a Xian, he must pure in life and doctrine (Jas. 3:17; Psa. 119:165).
(Jas 3:17) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.
(Psa 119:165) Those who love Thy law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.
 6. **Discipline.** Peace is not fully developed in a Xian until he/she has experienced correction or chastening (Heb. 12:7,11).
(Heb 12:7) It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?... **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.
 7. **Prayer.** Before “the peace of God which surpasses all understanding” soul, a final but necessary prerequisite is prayer with thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6).

III. THIRD TREASURE: HOPE.

- A. We are to be able to give a reason for our hope (1Pet. 3:13-15).
 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, **15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;
- B. Xianity is a religion of hope (1Cor. 15:19; 13:13; Eph. 4:4).
(1Cor 15:19) If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.
(1Cor 13:13) But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
(Eph 4:4) *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- C. Webster defines hope as, “to desire with expectation or with belief in the possibility of obtaining; cherish hope of.”
- D. In the NT, hope means “favorable and confident expectation. It has to do with the unseen and the future” (W.E. Vine). It is the happy anticipation of good!
- E. Simply put; hope means desire plus expectation.
 1. You may desire something but if you don’t expect to get it you have no hope.
 2. You may expect something but if you don’t desire it you have no hope.

- F. The Xian's hope is based on two things:
1. God, who cannot lie, has promised (1Jn. 2:25).
And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.
 2. God, who cannot lie, has confirmed with an oath (Heb. 6:19a).
This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast...
- G. The Xian's hope is that of one day being like Jesus (1Jn. 3:2b).
...it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.
- H. Therefore, the Xian hope is:
1. A purifying hope (1Jn. 3:3).
And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
 2. An unashamed hope (Rom. 5:5).
...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
 3. A patient hope (Rom. 8:25).
But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.
 4. An anchor for the soul (Heb. 6:19).
This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,
 5. A living hope (1Pet. 1:3).
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 6. A hope worth defending (1Pet. 3:15).
...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Three lasting treasures: Joy, Peace, and Hope.
- B. If we could make these three things part of the foundation of our life, it will help with all the bumps, and bruises.
- C. To find joy, peace, and hope, one must be in X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.