

Joy to the World

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10).

An Advent Bible Study

Advent Candles



Worldly Joy

- God's joy is different from the world's happiness.
- How does the joy that comes from God differ from the happiness of this world?
- The dictionary defines joy as a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.
- Joy is defined as an emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune.
- There are limitations with this type of joy, which we can call worldly joy.

Biblical Joy

- Thanks be to God, there is another type of joy.
- Chara is the ancient Greek word which means joy.
- Joy (chara) is a deep and abiding inner rejoicing which was promised to those who abide in Christ (John 15:11).
- It is God's gift to believers (Romans 14:17).
- The Holy Spirit manifests this supernatural joy in believers (Galatians 5:22; Acts 13:52; 1 Thessalonians 1:6).

Two Types of Joy

Worldly Joy

- Depends on good happenings
- Is found in material joys
- Is temporary
- Comes and goes
- Doesn't bring peace
- Is human joy

Biblical Joy

- Exists during trials (Jas. 1:2)
- Is found in Christ (Jn. 15:11)
- Is permanent (Ps.16:11)
- Is lasting (Jn.16:22)
- Is an inward peace (Rom.15:13)
- Is the joy of the Lord (Neh.8:10)

The Joy of Advent

- During Advent, we highlight the spirit of joy that Christ brings into the world.
- As we discuss and reflect on the gift of our Savior, we celebrate the joy that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the salvation he has gifted us.
 - “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great **joy** for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11).

Jesus Brings Joy

- Even before His birth, Jesus brought joy as attested to in Mary's song (Luke 1:47).
- John's response to hearing Mary's voice was that he "leaped for joy" in his mother's womb (Luke 1:44).
- Believers find joy in the Lord (Philippians 4:4).

An Abundance of Joy

- God fills us with joy (Romans 15:13)
- God rejoices over us (Luke 15:7).
- God's joy centers around us (Hebrews 12:2).
- Jesus looked forward with joy to the people He would save (Hebrews 12:2).
- Joy is something that saving faith in Christ brings (1 Peter 1:8).
- Jesus offers us His joy (John 15:11).
- Jesus wants us to have full, complete joy (1 John 1:4).

Believers Have Joy

- The presence and fellowship of believers brings joy (1 John 1:3-4).
- Hearing that those you have mentored and disciplined are walking in the truth brings joy (3 John 1:4).
- Giving brings joy (2 Corinthians 8:2).

Blessed Joy

Repentance brings joy (Luke 15:7;10).

The hope (absolute assurance) of future glory brings joy (1 Peter 4:13).

The Lord's Word brings joy (John 15:11).

Prayer brings joy (John 16:24).

Questions and Discussion

1. Do you think it is truly possible to experience life's sorrows and the joy of the Lord at the same time? Please explain.
2. Were there any sources of joy for you this week? If so, what were they?
3. For many, this Christmas season is a time of sadness. Who is someone that you can encourage with the spirit of joy that Christ brings during this season? How can God use you to bring joy to others?
4. What would happen if you shared where true joy comes from to those you know?
5. Is it possible to make the time and space to share a meal and a fun experience with someone who needs some joy?
6. Make an inventory of the things that bring you joy.