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Joy Pt 2 A Christian's joy is Christ & His brethren

This is our second and final study on the word "joy" in the scriptures. Last week we established three points– (i) Israel's joy was to be the Lord, (ii) God is the joy to all them that love Him, (iii) For those in Israel that turned to other gods they had no joy. This week we establish four points– i) A Christian's joy begins at salvation (ii) Our joy is based on God through Jesus Christ, (iii) Our joy is the joy of our brethren, and (iv) Christ's example of joy– endure the cross then sit at the right hand of God.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our points–

1 A Christian's Joy begins at salvation with receiving the gospel

"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost" (1 Thes.1: 5, 6).

2. Our joy is then based on God through our Lord Jesus Christ

"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement" (Rom.5: 11).

3. Our joy is the joy of our brethren

"And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all" (2 Cor.2: 3).

4. Christ's example of joy– endure the cross, then sit at the right hand of the throne of God

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12:2).

Illustration

In the movie "The Italian job" Lyle, was at the airport collecting their gear and when he learnt that there was \$30m left– of the gold bars they had stolen– he was so joyful, he had to disguise the source, so he said "I got the Holy Spirit... You should get on it... It's a good train".

Question of the scriptures

How can a believer have no joy?

Answer from the scriptures

Given that Joy is a fruit of the Spirit of God (Gal.5: 22), and not manufactured by worldly pleasures, like the movies, TV, rugby, or racing cars, then joy is a fruit that all believers will bear, regardless of their circumstances and surroundings. Therefore, if a person is in the body of Christ, but have no joy, then they are quenching the Holy Ghost from bearing fruit. They need to deal with the sin, or sins that are preventing the Spirit from bearing fruit. Let us look to the Lord Jesus as our example of joy, who "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the same, and is set down on the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb.12; 2), as we look beyond our current tribulation, which is but for a moment, and look to the time when we will be raptured (1Thes.4: 16, 17).