

# The Joy That Awaits Us

## Introduction

- 1. Christians have so much to look forward to. We can all be so excited about the fact that we will one day be with Jesus in Heaven for eternity if we will do His will while here on earth.**

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- 2. The joy that was set before Christ was beyond the cross.**
  - A. It encompassed the joy of redeeming the lost race.**
  - B. He endured the suffering of the cross to obtain the joy that awaited Him!**
- 3. This gives us an approved example of self-denial.**
  - A. When we forego some pleasures of this life to obtain our goal of heaven it will certainly be great joy!**
  - B. We forego the temporal pleasure of sin in order to obtain great spiritual joy!**

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God **than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin**, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; **for he looked to the reward.**

## **At Times Our Joy May Be Brought Low**

- 1. Because we have not come to terms with ourselves – resolved to do God’s will regardless of the consequences.**
- 2. Because we have not learned to live with people.**
  - A. Our home life can be pleasant if we want it to be.**
    - 1) We must learn to be patient, tolerant, and to develop an understanding heart toward others.**
  - B. We must leave the peculiarities of people alone.**
    - 1) “Why do things this way or that.” Trying to reform others to fit into our own opinions of things.**
- 3. Because we have not learned that we have a life to share with others.**
  - A. Developing companionships with our fellow man.**
  - B. Blending our lives together in Christian fellowship.**
  - C. Developing a spirit of cooperation.**

## **The Joy of Living Within God's Law**

- 1. Being resolved to do God's prescribed law no matter what.**
- 2. Sometimes the will of God may be difficult for us to understand, but we must still be determined to follow His teaching for us.**
  - A. Love your enemy and to do good to them that hate you.**
  - B. Love your neighbors.**
  - C. Love the brethren, however do not develop a love for the brethren's sin.**

## **Five Joyous Testimonies**

- 1. It was by faith that Moses looked to the future rewards for his life.**
  - A. He had respect to the recompense of the reward.**
  - B. He was looking beyond for an eternal, lasting joy!**
- 2. A doorkeeper in the house of God.**

Psalms 84:9-11 O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your anointed. For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; **No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.**

- A. Brethren, that right there is the bottom line. No matter what we do in this life, as long as we are walking uprightly, we can and will reap the joy of our eternal reward!**

### **3. The righteous shall flourish like the Palm tree.**

Psalms 92:12-14 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. **Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God.** They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

- A. The righteous are those who obey the Lord in all things.**
- B. True and lasting joy comes after the demands of the law are met. A lifetime of obeying and serving God will result in an eternal joy!**
- C. It is a righteous thing to:**
  - 1) Meet and break bread, to assemble for Bible study, to teach the word of God, to pray, to sing spiritual songs to the Lord and to give of our means as we have been prospered.**

### **4. Blessed in the man who's delight is in the law of the Lord.**

**Psalms 1:1-6**

- A. This kind of conduct will result in true and lasting happiness – eternal joy!**

## **5. Paul suffered the loss of all things in order to win Christ.**

Philippians 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, **for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ**

### **A. He did not only lose all but he won all by serving God.**

- 1) He fought a good fight, both physically and spiritually.**
- 2) He kept the faith.**
- 3) He finished his course – He completed his mission.**

### **B. He was now just waiting for the eternal joy of victory in Jesus!**

- 1) The fight over, victory won, the world behind, death at hand, and the joys of heaven awaiting before him.**

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** Finally, **there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,** which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also **to all who have loved His appearing.**

### **A. Paul left us an example, the road to follow, in order to be victorious in Christ!**

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Contrary to what some may say, the Christian life is not burdensome.**
  - A. The burden is trying to carry the cross of Christ and the weight of the world also.**
    - 1) We will only achieve true joy and happiness when we live apart from the world.**
  
- 2. The joys are set before us:**
  - A. The forgiveness of sins!**
  
  - B. Deliverance from bondage!**
  
  - C. An eternal home in the city of God our Father!**
  
- 3. May we always live our lives in such a way that shows others that we are eagerly looking forward to the joy that awaits us!**

