

Joy – Pt 4 Final – We joy in God through Jesus Christ.

In our previous study we established that – (1) the Spirit of God dwells in us, and the fruit of the Spirit is joy, and (2) therefore, we are exceeding joyful in (i) tribulation (ii) the joy of our brethren and (iii) in the presence of His glory. In this study we establish that – (1) Our joy on earth is – (i) in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and (ii) knowing that God will render unto man his righteousness, and (2) our joy when we leave this earth will be in the presence of Christ.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Our joy on earth is –

i) in God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom.5: 11).

ii) knowing that God will render unto man his righteousness.

“He shall pray unto God...and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness” (Job 33:26). See also 2 Thes.1: 6.

2. Our joy when we leave this earth will be in the presence of Christ.

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?” (1 Thes.2: 19).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

Imagine given up your job to take up mission work in India, Pakistan or Iran – going through all that sacrifice, partaking in Christ’s suffering – if Christ be not risen. Is is any wonder that the scriptures say – If Christ be not risen then “we are of all men most miserable” (1 Cor.15: 19) “But now is Christ risen from the dead” (ver. 20).

Additional information.

In this topic we have established that – Joy takes place in our heart, God is our exceeding joy and our brethren are our exceeding joy. Well –

i) our brethren are only our brethren because they, and we, are IN Christ, and

ii) we only know God through His Son Jesus Christ.

Question to think about.

What does it mean to have joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Today – we are to have the mind of Christ (Phil.2: 5), think on heavenly things, and our joy is in our brethren and in tribulation – all are through Christ. In addition we are forgiven our sins and imputed with the righteousness of Christ. Hence when we think on such things we have joy in our heart in God, and all through Christ.

Future – let us think of the time when we will see our Saviour in the clouds, receive eternal life in a house not made with hands in heaven, worshipping God in the presence of His angels and the Father sitting on His throne with His Son at His right hand (Col.3: 1). All will give us joy in our heart in God, and all through Christ.

When we are IN Christ there is nothing we can do not to inherit the promises of salvation, redemption, forgiveness of sins, or hope of eternal life. ALL the promises of God are in Christ, ALL are given to us freely by grace. Neither death, nor suffering, nor anything that our enemy Satan throws at us can take them away – now that is a reason to have **exceeding joy in God** and **ALL** through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!