

Theme: We were made for uncommon joy in this life and in eternity, but it is only found in God, and is secured for us in the resurrection of Christ.

I. Intro – The Quest for Joy

- A. Happy Easter - Resurrection Day!
- B. This is a holiday for true joy
- C. Today we want to consider UnCommon Joy & its source
- D. Can there really be joy in this life?
- E. Where is joy found? What are false paths to joy?
- F. How can we have joy in the face of death?

II. The Human Quest for Joy

A. This Psalm has a central theme of joy

1. Words for joy, delight, rejoice occur a lot

As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my **delight**. Psalms 16:3

The boundary lines have fallen for me in **pleasant** places; surely I have a **delightful** inheritance. Psalms 16:6

Therefore my heart is **glad** and my tongue **rejoices**; my body also will rest secure, Psalms 16:9

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with **joy** in your presence, with **eternal pleasures** at your right hand. Psalms 16:11

2. The Psalmist is concerned with joy

- a. He wants us to know the true source of joy
- b. He warns of false paths that promise joy but give sorrow
- c. He speaks of joy now and forever

B. All humans seek joy

1. Augustine on the human quest for joy

Every man, whatsoever his condition, desires to be happy. There is no man who does not desire this, and each one desires it with such earnestness that he prefers it to all other things; whoever, in fact, desires other things, desires them for this end alone.

Without exception we all long for happiness... All agree that they want to be happy... They may all search for it in different ways, but all try their hardest to reach the same goal, that is, joy.

2. The Psalm is speaking of a universal quest

3. We all want joy - will we find it?

- a. What is the true source of joy?
- b. What are the false paths that lead to sorrow, not joy?
- c. How can we have joy now and forever?

III. The True Source of Joy - God

A. The Psalmist has great joy in things given by God

1. He finds delight in God's people

As for **the saints** who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my **delight**. Psalms 16:3

2. He finds delight in God's gifts and provisions

Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; **you have made my lot secure**.⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in **pleasant** places; surely I have a **delightful** inheritance. Psalms 16:5–6

3. It is right to find and express joy in God's gifts to us

- B. But the source of joy is God Himself - not even His gifts
Keep me safe, O God, for **in you I take refuge**.² I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; **apart from you I have no good thing**." Psalms 16:1–2

I have set the Lord always before me. **Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken**. Psalms 16:8

- C. We were made for God - and our joy is in Him!

IV. False Sources of Joy - Our Other "gods"

- A. There are other "gods" that promise joy but give sorrow
The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips. Psalms 16:4

1. We were created to worship - and we will!
2. Other "gods" promise joy - but only lead to sorrow
3. Some common "gods" we are tempted to worship:
 - a. Money - lottery winners sorrowful; toys lose appeal
 - b. Sex - outside of marriage it entraps & destroys
 - c. Fame - look at the disfunction of Hollywood starlets
 - d. Youth - but look at plastic surgeries gone wrong!
4. All of these can not give joy - only God can!
5. These gods give joy for a season - and then unending sorrow

- B. The underlying nature of all sin and sorrow

1. The essence of sin - forsaking God for false sources of meaning and joy
2. CS Lewis quote on joy and sin

Sin is not seeking joy & pleasure, but seeking it in the wrong place. If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that **Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased**. – C.S. Lewis

- C. The proper response - don't believe their lies!

The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. **I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips**. Psalms 16:4

V. Joy - Now and Forever!

- A. God offers eternal joy instead of fleeting pleasures
You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with **eternal pleasures** at your right hand. Psalms 16:11
1. God gives eternal joy & pleasure - not fleeting
 2. Notice this joy is in God's Presence
- B. This **eternal** joy comes through the Resurrection
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,¹⁰ **because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay**. Psalms 16:9–10

1. Real joy must overcome death - or all is lost
2. Our joy is eternal because we will be raised from the dead
3. Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee of our own

C. This is why we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus

1. All joys apart from Him are false and fleeting
2. But even if they lasted - death wipes them all away
3. But He has conquered death! He is risen!
4. And because He lives, we can live forever too!
5. Good Friday - Jesus is willing to sacrifice for our joy
6. Easter Sunday - Jesus has secured our joy forever!

VI. Applying the Word

A. Where do I find my joy?

1. We are all on a quest for joy; but where do we look?
2. No shortage of gods offering false promises!
3. Where do I really look for joy? Meaning? Fulfillment?
4. I urge you to look to Jesus - the only true source of joy!
5. Come as you are - and find the joy for which you were made!

B. Finding our joy in the Resurrection of Christ

1. The Resurrection is the path to life and joy - eternally
2. He will not abandon us to the grave!
3. Death will not have the last word

4. This is reason for joy - now and forever!

UnCommon Joy Now and Forever

Psalm 16
 March 31, 2013
 Prayer
 Revelation 1:4-5 Paraphrased

Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts!
 Thou fount of life! Thou light of men!
 From the best bliss that earth imparts,
 We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from His Spirit, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead. Amen!

Revelation 1:4-5