

Theme: True joy is found in Christ, Who has come to save and restore us to God, the source of all true joy.

I. Intro – The Quest for Happiness & Joy

- A. Augustine quote on happiness
- B. Augustine quote on joy
- C. Augustine is right - we all seek joy!
- D. What is joy? Where is it found?
- E. How is joy related to Christmas?

II. The Message of Joy

- A. The angels message - fear not; joy!
 - 1. Intro - Do not fear! (v10) - people usually do!
 - 2. Reason - good news of great joy! (v10)
 - 3. The announcement begins with joy!
 - 4. Remember Augustine's quotes - we long for joy!
 - 5. Is Augustine right? Is joy that important - to God?
- B. God's estimation of the importance of joy
 - 1. Rom 14:17 - Kingdom is righteousness, peace & joy
 - 2. Galatians 5:22 - Joy is fruit of the Spirit
 - 3. Nehemiah 8:10 - Joy of the Lord is our strength
 - 4. Hebrews 1:8-9 - Jesus anointed with oil of joy
 - 5. John 15:11 - Jesus gives His joy to disciples
 - 6. Romans 15:13 - Paul prays we are filled with joy

7. Jude 24 - We will see God - with joy!

C. No wonder the angels proclaim joy!

III. The Scope of Joy - All People

- A. This joy is available to all people
 - 1. Scope - for all people! (Luke 2:10)
 - 2. The message is not for a few - but for all!
 - 3. Prince and pauper, ruler and slave, rich and poor
 - 4. But these were poor, oppressed shepherds
 - 5. How can they be offered joy?
- B. Joy is not dependent on circumstances
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 7:4 - unbounded joy during trouble
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 1:6 - joy in midst of suffering
 - 3. Habakkuk 3:17-19 - joy in God no matter what
- C. But how can this be? Are they deluded?

IV. The Source of Joy - God

- A. The basis for joy - Christ the Lord has come to save!
 - 1. The angels message - joy because of Christ (v11)
 - 2. They do not base joy on circumstances
- B. God is the fount and source of true joy
 - 1. The angels message - joy because of Christ (v11)
 - 2. They do not base joy on circumstances

3. Jeremiah 15:6 - Joy of God's Word
4. Psalms 16:11 - joy in God's presence
5. Augustine - God is our joy (Confessions, IX, 1)
6. Augustine - full, true joy only for believers

C. This is not because God is stingy - nature of reality

1. It can not be otherwise - we were made for God
2. Augustine - restless hearts, rest in Him (Conf. I,1)
3. Our deepest joy is found in knowing, loving Him
4. Look to Him - and unwrap true, soul satisfying joy!

V. Applying the Word

A. Have you found your joy in Christ?

1. The heart of Christmas - Christ has come for us
2. He has come to save us and to give us joy!
3. There is no joy apart from knowing God
4. There is deep joy, pleasure, satisfaction in knowing Him
5. Don't cling to other things - they will falter and fail
6. Look to Christ today for real salvation, real joy

B. Are you walking in true joy?

1. There is no reason for Christians to not be joy filled
2. Christ has come to give us joy
3. Spirit produces joy in us and fills us with God's joy

4. God's Word is an unending source of joy
5. Circumstances can not stop joy
6. Are we known as people of joy and satisfaction?
7. God is not the fun police - He is the source of joy!
8. We should find joy in all of life - we are loved by Him!
9. If not - look to Him and meditate on Him this week

C. Conclusion - Joy to the World

1. Isaac Watts paraphrase of Psalm 98
2. But has become associated with Christmas
3. Appropriate for Christmas is cause for Joy!

Unwrapping Joy In Christ

Luke 2:10-11
 December 18, 2011
 Joy to the World
 Jude 24-25

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:10–11

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. – Augustine, Sermon 306, 3.

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. – Augustine, *Confessions*, X, 21.

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit Romans 14:17

But the **fruit of the Spirit is** love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22–23

Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**” Nehemiah 8:10

But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore **God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.**” Hebrews 1:8–9

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:11

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

To him who is able to keep you from falling and **to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—** Jude 24

I am greatly encouraged; **in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.** 2 Corinth. 7:4

You became imitators of us and of the Lord; **in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.** 1 Thessalonians 1:6

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, 18 **yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.** 19 The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights. Habakkuk 3:17–19

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:10–11

When **your words** came, I ate them; **they were my joy and my heart’s delight**, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. Jeremiah 15:16

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

How sweet all at once it was for me to be rid of those fruitless joys which I had once feared to lose! You drove them from me, you who are the true, the sovereign joy. You drove them from me and took their place, you who are sweeter than all pleasure. (Augustine, *Confessions*, IX, 1.)

For there is a joy not given to those who do not love you, but only to those who love you for your own sake. You yourself are their joy. Happiness is to rejoice in you and for you and because of you. Augustine, *Confessions*, X, 22.

Still he desires to praise thee, this man who is only a small part of thy creation. Thou hast prompted him, that he should delight to praise thee, for thou hast made us for thyself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in thee. Augustine, *Confessions*, I, 1.