

Theme: We were made for 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 – Augustine’s *Confessions*

- A. St. Augustine’s amazing life and MASSIVE influence
- B. He left behind many sermons and great works
- C. *Confessions* is his account of his early life and conversion and is very influential to this day
- D. It is an account for Augustine to find rest and joy
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
- E. Where is true, lasting joy found? How is Easter related?

II. The Human Quest for Joy

- A. This Psalm has a central theme of joy and delight
 - 1. Notice all the times joy, delight, rejoice occur
³ As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my **delight**... ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in **pleasant** places; surely I have a **delightful** inheritance.
⁹ Therefore my heart is **glad** and my tongue **rejoices**; my body also will rest secure... ¹¹ 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. Psalm 16:3, 6, 9, 11
 - 2. David is focused on the human pursuit of joy!
 - a. He mentions this idea 6 times!
 - b. He warns us about false paths that promise joy but end in sorrow

- c. He wants to show us the true source of joy
- d. He is even thinking of eternal joy - a joy that begins now but lasts forever!

B. All humans seek joy!

- 1. All humans are on a 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. (Augustine, *Sermon 306*)
 - a. Every human wants to be happy - no matter who we are, when or where we live
 - b. Even when we seek other things it is because we think they will make us happy.
- 2. Often we search for joy in the wrong places!
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
 - a. We all want joy - but look for it in different ways!
 - b. *Confessions* is a record of all the false paths Augustine took looking for joy
- 3. In Psalm 16 David teaches us where true eternal joy is found

III. 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
 1. All the Money in the World; story of J. Paul Getty - haggling over ransom price; just a little bit more!
 2. Studies show lottery winners are LESS happy after they win the lottery!
 - b. Possessions
 1. Over 50,000 personal storage facilities - more than Starbucks, McDonalds, Duncan Donuts, Pizza Hut, and Wendy’s combined!
 2. And then it ends up in garage sales or landfills!
 - c. Sex
 1. The sexual revolution promised freedom and unending pleasure
 2. The real results have been emotional heartbreak, skyrocketing disease, psychological confusion
 - d. Power
 1. Marxism claims this is what all truly seek - but it has led to hundreds of millions of deaths!
 2. The quest for power leads to endless conflict and even when achieved takes a massive toll - look at photos of Presidents before and after their terms in office!
4. These gods give joy for a season - and then unending sorrow
5. Even if they gave joy for all of life - what about death?

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, *The Weight of Glory*
3. The problem is not a desire for joy, nor is it even that these things are inherently bad. Rather, it is that we think too much of them and too little of God!

IV. The True Source of Joy - God Himself!

- 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

1. It is good to enjoy God's good gifts to us!
2. It is good to acknowledge they come from God and to give Him thanks!
3. But the Source of all True Joy is God Himself! Every other joy we can find in this life is but an echo of the Joy that is God Himself!
4. It was this realization that led both Augustine and CS Lewis to faith in Christ - and rest and joy!

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

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 passing pleasure that turns to dust

2. We were created for eternal joy - and nothing else will finally satisfy.

3. Notice this joy is in God's Presence - for even in heaven our joy will be God Himself!

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. David speaks of the resurrection - his and the Messiah!

3. The New Testament tells us this is about Jesus' resurrection!

David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, ²⁷because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.' ²⁹ "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Acts 2:25–32

4. Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee of our own resurrection from the dead - into eternal joy!

5. Our joy is eternal because we will be raised from the dead into God's Presence forever!
6. This will be the realization of everything we have longed for our entire lives - True, lasting Joy!

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. Find true Joy in the Resurrection of Christ!

1. All other 'gods' are false paths, but Christ offers eternal joy!
2. Usually, when my joy fades it is a sign I have set my hopes and affection on a false god
3. Christ offers us true joy - now and in eternity!

B. The Table of Joy

1. Here we come to feast and receive true joy!
2. Come and be filled with what your soul truly desires!

Eternal Joy In the Resurrection of Christ

Psalm 16
April 9, 2023
Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: Easter; resurrection; joy; idolatry and false gods

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Go forth, full of the joy and blessings of Christ's resurrection, and be a blessing! Hebrews 13:20–21

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." ³ As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight. ⁴The 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. ⁵ 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. ⁷ I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. ⁸ I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, ¹⁰because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. ¹¹ 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. Psalm 16