



Rejoice

Intro: So often we look at religion as a burden in our lives, a system of rules and regulations designed to take all the fun out of life. Yet, Paul says to rejoice always - Phil 4:4 - it is unreasonable? No, five reasons for rejoicing as a Christian.

I) Greatest love

- A) Draw near to God - Jas 4:8 - trusting in God is source of great blessings - Psa 37:3-6
- B) Confession of the Lord - Mt 10:32 - Jesus standing by our side - 2 Tim 4:17,18 - story of footprints in the sand when Jesus carried us
- C) Jesus gave His life for us - Jn 15:13; 3:16; Rom 5:6-8 - what does He hold back from us now? - Rom 8:32

II) God's providence

- A) God has always loved and provided for His people
- B) Same is true today - Mt 6:25-33; Phil 4:19

III) Fellowship with other saints

- A) Paul valued those relationships - Col 1:3,4
- B) Some use the excuse of not wanting to be hypocrites, but what about the majority, who are Christ-like
- C) Stimulation of others - Heb 10:23-25

IV) Peace of mind

- A) Faith saves - Lk 7:50 - salvation means peace - 2 Tim 4:6-8 - as Paul had peace
- B) God's Word gives us peace - Psa 119:162-165 - and prayer - Phil 4:6-9

V) Destiny of heaven

- A) Jailer was ready to commit suicide - Ac 16:27-31
- B) Many are persecuted in this life, but those who endure will find a reward - Mk 13:13; Heb 12:1-4; Mt 5:12
- C) Kingdom is a treasure - Mt 13:44 - compare to an athlete who devotes their life to training to win a prize - 1 Cor 9:24-27

Conclusion: If you do not have peace in your life, consider Jesus as your answer - Gal 5:22,23; Mt 11:28-30