

'The Joy of the Christian Life'

Trinity Baptist Church

'And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.' - 1 John i.4

The following is an excerpt from the outline of a sermon preached at Trinity Baptist Church, on Lord's Day, 15 September 2019, from 1 John i.4. Regarding how the Word of Life, written and living, brings Joy to the Christian experience:

I. How Does the Christian Experience the Joy of the LORD?

- A.** We have joy because of our union with Christ, as seen in the pronouncement of Christ's birth was a pronouncement of joy (*c.f.* Lk ii.10-11).
- B.** Because Scripture reminds us of God's vindication of His people (*c.f.* Est viii.16).
- C.** Because the Word of God instructs the whole man (*c.f.* 2 Tim iii.17).
- D.** Because the Word reminds of God's protection against the foe (*c.f.* Psa iv.7-8).
- E.** Because the Word puts before us His glorious works (*c.f.* Psa xcii.4).
- F.** Because of the sure hope of salvation through the Lord Christ (*c.f.* Prov x.28).

II. When Does the Christian Experience the Joy of the LORD?

- A.** At our conversion (*c.f.* Mt xiii.44).
- B.** In worship, whether corporate or private:
 - 1)** In reading of God's Word (*c.f.* Neh viii.17-18).
 - 2)** In singing the Word (*c.f.* Col iii.16).
 - 3)** In meditating on God's Word (*c.f.* Psa cxix.97).
- C.** In sanctification:
 - 1)** The Christians' Obedience and flourishing (*c.f.* Phil ii.2).
 - 2)** Sharing the Gospel (*c.f.* Acts xiii.52).
- D.** In seasons of plenty and normalcy (*c.f.* Neh viii.10).
- E.** In seasons of difficulty:
 - 1)** There is Joy through trials and affliction (*c.f.* Jms i.2; Psa cxix.71).
 - 2)** There is Joy in the midst of persecution (*c.f.* Acts v.41).
 - 3)** Thomas Watson, 'It brings glory to God, when the world sees a Christian has that within him that can make him cheerful in the worst times... The people of God have ground for cheerfulness. They are justified and adopted, and this creates inward peace; it makes music within whatever storms are without' (*A Complete Body of Divinity: Sermons upon the Westminster Shorter Catechism*).
- F.** For all of eternity upon the return of the Lord (*c.f.* Isa. li.11).
- G.** Each moment of the Christian's life is to be filled with joy because the Lord's covenant of grace and peace is the joy of His people (*c.f.* Psa cxix.111).

'Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.' - Philippians iv.4