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Jesus Christ-Man of Great Joy # 1

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JESUS CHRIST - MAN OF GREAT JOY

Hebrews 12:1-3 *

INT:Question: What is the world's greatest problem right now?7 Answers: **War. Pollution. Racism. Drugs. Hunger. Over-population. Internal-disharmony.**Observations: None spiritual. All important! None the most important. **WHY???**1st Answer: We could stop all wars, solve pollution, correct our racism, cure hunger, adjust our world population and settle our internal disharmony **AND STILL:**1. Not be at peace with God! Not in harmony with Heaven. Not be spiritually saved forever.*Soul problem. Sin problem.* **Matt. 16:26.**2nd Answer: If we solved all the materialistic and physical problems of earth, and yet had no hope of Heaven--would we have solved the most imp. question? **No!** The eternal, everlasting and immortal questions would remain unsolved. **LOST!!!!**CONCLUSION: The most important question before this world this morning is: Am I a soldier of the cross? Am I ready for the Judgment? Am I prepared to meet my God? Am I saved from sin?I. JESUS CAME TO HELP ME SOLVE MY GREATEST PROBLEMS OF LIFE.Identified Himself in numerous ways:To the lowly shepherds, He was the Good Shepherd.To the humble vinyard-worker, He was the Vine.To the human-sheep without a shepherd, the Door.To the wanderer He was the Way.To the truth-seeker, He was the Truth.To the perishing, He was the Life.To the dying, He was the Resurrection and the Life.And....to the discouraged, despondant, distracted, and disheveled people of His day, He was the Man of great Joy. **John 15:11 & 17:13.***A. Definitions of Happiness and Joy vital to this study.1. **HAPPINESS:** "quiet sense of well-being." All is well2. **JOY:** an emotion/excited by expectation of something good. In Bible over 200 times.

a. Some primitive definitions which make it clear.

Bambaras of French West Africa: "Spr. made sweet

Kpelles of Liberia: "Sweetens the heart."

Uduks of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan: Its good

Joy:

for the stomach." Joy lightens the heart and does produce good health.

Baoulis of Ivory Coast W. Africa: "puts a song in the stomach."

3. Paul said: "JESUS COVETED THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION MORE THAN HE DREADED THE HORRIBLE DEATH ON THE CROSS!!!" Hebrews 12:1-3.*

DESPISE: Gr. kata-phro-neo: to think down, slightly.

4. OUR GREATEST PROBLEM is the sin on our souls and He considered saving our SOULS more important than the sufferings He would endure on the cross!!!!

II. ISAIAH, THE PROPHET, SAW JESUS FROM SEVERAL VIEWPOINTS.

1. Isaiah 53:3-7. Kindest, humblest, sweetest, tenderest. ^{But a sufferer!!!}

2. Isaiah 9:6-7. Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God....

3. Isaiah 29:19. Thru Him, meek & poor shall know JOY.

4. Isaiah 35:1-2. Desert rejoice with JOY, bloom like a rose God, 700 years before the birth of Christ, sent the Word forward that He was sending the world A MAN OF JOY!

III. ANGELS, SHEPHERDS AND WISE MEN ANNOUNCED THE ARRIVAL OF JOY!

A. Luke 2:8-14. Angels brought great joy to shepherds.

B. " 2:15-20. Shepherds shared the joy with whole country

C. Matt. 2:9-12. Wisemen told the Arabians, Medes, Parthians Mesopotamians, Persians, Elamites.

Cause of joy: Mankind was seeing a new vision of peace, happiness, joy and brotherly love among men.

III. JESUS' DEATH BROUGHT HOPE AND JOY FOR WORRYING WORLD.

A. Humanity facing certain death and doom. But Jesus brought life and immortality to light thru gospel.*IIT. 1:7-10

B. Mankind's hoplessness and helplessness was turned into Hope, and Joy and Glory thru Christ. * I Pet.1:3-4, 8-9.

INV. Truly the world can joyfully sing: "Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King!"



Conclusion: T'is far better to JOYFULLY pay the PRICE for salvation, than to forever BITTERLY pay the PENALTY for sin. Rom. 3:23. 6:23. Acts 2:38.

Erring Christian: I John 1:9.

Identify.