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# Jesus-Harbinger Of Joy

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JESUS-HARBINGER OF JOY

INT: Words Joy, Joyful, Joyous & Joyfulness in Bible 181 times. Suggests several things:

1. A gift from God in abundance since beginning
2. O.T. & N.T. characters experienced Joy !!!
3. N.T. teaches that CHRISTIANS should know a measure of Joy the world will never know

Jesus told the message first in His ministry and Paul concluded the message in his ministry.

I. CHRISTIANS NEVER TIRE OF HEARING THE BIRTH STORY.1. \* Luke 2:8-14.

- a. Jews: an Oppressed and DE-pressed people. <sup>Romans!!!</sup>
- b. Yearning for: Freedom. Peace. Prosperity. Happiness. and Joy.
- c. GOD'S PROMISE: here!  
 Good-tidings: good-news. Wanted-news!!!  
 Great joy : only freedom do that. J.8:32.  
 Peace on earth: John 14:27.  
 Good will among (all) men.\*Gal. 3:26-29.

II. JESUS HAD A JOY BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDING OF MEN.1. \* Heb. 12:1-2.

2. Contradiction??? Joy when facing Death?????
- a. Involves two things: A goal & an attitude!  
 Christ's goal: Heavenly home for sinful man  
 Christ's attitude: I will make it possible!
- b. Conclusion: Salvation is the most IMPORTANT gift of God to man. Lk. 15:7 and 10.
- c. TRUTH: No price is TOO HIGH to pay for the salvation of ONE SOUL!!! Even the Life of God's own perfect Son!

EXPLANATION: "The highest joy to the Christian almost always comes through suffering. No flower can bloom in Paradise, which is not transplanted from Gethsemane.

No one can taste of the fruit of the tree of life, ~~WHO~~ WHO has not tasted of the fruits of the tree of Calvary. The Crown comes only after the Cross.

3. Jesus announced that He had come to bring great Joy to men who would follow Him: LOVE!  
 \* John 15:10-14. *Dad's Harbinger!*

4. Joy is possible in the hearts of Christians NO MATTER what may happen to him. Is saved!

- III. PAUL PARTOOK OF THIS UNBELIEVABLE JOY!  
\* Phil. 4:4-7. His Goal, a Crown of Life!  
A. He paid! \*II Cor. 11:24. Still joyful!  
B. Whole Roman Empire couldn't take his hope, expectation, reward and victory from him! \* Rom. 8:37-39.

THE MESSAGE! When someone wants something bad enough, he will suffer joyfully for it! Never give up. Pay. Pay. And pay!!!!  
Ill. American youth in helicopter-gun-ship in Viet Nam. Shot down. Plane burned. He burned very badly.

Dr.: "You will never walk again!"

Pilot: "I WILL walk again. I will run! I will play Professional Football! I will make ALL-PRO!" Impossible! Never. Never.

Story: Agony & the Ecstasy:

Long hospital stay. Returned home.  
Began crawling. Walking. Running.  
Stretched tight burned skin. Bled MUCH.  
Lifted weights. Vigorous therapy program.  
MOTHER coached, cheered and urged him on.

Cried. Screamed. Agonized. Ached and pained.  
1968: Made the Pittsburg Steelers football team.  
Became All-Pro. running back! Still strong. WHY?

A Goal set before him. A Joy set before him.  
His AMBITION was greater than his injury & pain.  
ROCKY BLEIER.

INV. CHRIST'S MISSION ON EARTH was more important to Him than all the pain & suffering mankind could heap upon Him.

He came with a simple message: John 3:16.

Man can respond with a simple obedience.  
Mk. 16:15-16.

Thanks to Jesus' suffering and death, man can rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS!!!

YOU have no NEED/greater than Christ's ability to fulfill it tonight!!!

COME TO HIM! LET HIM BRING JOY INTO YOUR LIFE!!!

MT 3-11-79 PM 0