

Be Joyful in Hope
Romans 12:12
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show why we should be joyful in Hope.

- Intro:
1. There are a lot of reasons to be joyful.
 2. Tonight we will be look at three areas to be joyful.

I. Modern Views of Joy

- A. Lasting Joy comes from physical things
 1. Joys are short lived here. (**Ecc 5:11-14**)
 2. Joys in these area often can be a let down.
- B. Lasting Joy comes from worldly social scenes.
 1. Drugs use (legal or illegal)
 2. Sexual relations outside of marriage

II. Joyful Hope

- A. Rejoicing in Hope
 1. Rejoicing in the reward awaiting the faithful. (**Heb 10:34**)
 2. Rejoicing in the Lord because of the many blessing from Him (**Phil 4:4**)
- B. In patient tribulation
 1. Being faithfully active despite hardships
 2. It is continuing to do good, despite trials
 - a. Not simply refraining from doing something bad
- C. Continuing steadfastly in prayer (**1 Thess 5:16-18**)
 1. The relationship between prayer and the joyful life is implied elsewhere in the Scriptures
 2. In prayer, we should be made constantly aware of the reason for our hope (forgiveness of our sins through Jesus' blood)

III. Lessons for Us Today

- A. We have reasons for hope, patience & prayer.
 1. Hope because there is more to look forward than the things of this world.
 2. Patience because the reward awaiting the faithful is worth the hardship and the wait.
 3. Prayer because this is how we communicate with God.
- B. Joy can be found in all these things.
 1. There are joy in these things because with God there is always a positive side (**Gen 50:20**)
 2. We as Christians have to count things, all things as part of the joy of being a servant of Christ (**James 1:2-4**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. The Christian must do their best to be joyful in this life.
2. When we think of things that are the opposite of joy many words come to mind.
3. To be joyful is to be positive the Christian cannot afford to be negative, especially before the world.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9