

“Jesus Came for YOU: So be of Great Joy”

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – December 16, 2012

Philippians 4:4-8, 12-13

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things...12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have LEARNED the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

The Secret of Great Joy is to...

1. PRAISE GOD SACRIFICIALLY

(v.4) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Heb 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-the fruit of lips that confess his name.

The Secret of Great Joy is to...

2. PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING

(v. 6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

It's hard to be content when you're worried and anxious about every little thing.

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety upon him, because he cares for you.

The Secret of Great Joy is...

3. GODLY THINKING

(v. 8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

- Joy is the result of habitually doing, saying, thinking the RIGHT things.
- Sadness is the result of habitually doing, saying, and thinking the WRONG things.

Paul said that we should think about "whatever is true."

What do we know to be true right now?

- I KNOW THAT GOD LOVES ME. (1 John 3:16)
- I KNOW THAT GOD IS WITH ME. (Hebrews 13:5)
- I KNOW THAT GOD WILL WORK THINGS TOGETHER FOR MY GOOD. (Romans 8:28)
- I KNOW WHO I BELONG TO. (1 John 3:1)

Great Joy results in...

4. GOD'S INCOMPREHENSIBLE PEACE & STRENGTH

(v. 7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(v. 13) I can do everything through him who gives me strength.