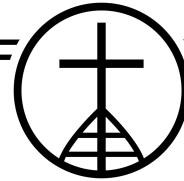


# PULPIT CURRICULUM

**The Marks of a Good Church: Joy**

1 Thessalonians 5:16

April 28, 2024 – Adam Ashoff



**Prayer & Praise:** Pray for the upcoming local outreach event at Kiwanis Park, HBC in the Park, that God would provide many open doors for evangelism and encouragement that day. .

## THE ROOT OF REJOICING ALWAYS

*Joy is an affection, like love, found in a believer's heart, and a visible expression of the Christian's hope of salvation.* How does this differ from the idea of Paul commanding joy as an emotion or to pursue joy as an experience, as an end in and of itself?

**John 15:11:** *These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, & your joy may be made full.*

How has this verse impacted the way you think about the source of joy in your life? What are some ways you have seen this become more of a reality in your life as you have grown in abiding in Christ?

## THE FRUIT OF REJOICING ALWAYS (see page 2 for the 29 references to rejoicing in his epistles)

Think through each of the relational fruits: sympathetic joys (Rom 12:15), sacrificial joys (Phil 2:17-18), strengthening joys (1 Thess 3:8-10), sorrowful joys (2 Cor 7:6-10), and selfless joys (Phil 1:15-19). Which come most natural to you, and which do you have to work the hardest at, and why?

**Mutual Ministry:** Where do you see any 'famine' of joy in Jesus in your life? If not, and you are in a sweet season of communion with Christ, what would you share with the group as a way you are able to keep that joy well-watered?

*Joy is the small publicity of the pagan, but the gigantic secret of the Christian.*

**GK Chesterton, "Orthodoxy"**

**Rm 12:12:** rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer

**Rm 12:15:** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep

**Rm 16:19:** For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil

**1 Cr 7:29-30:** But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives should be as though they had none; and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess

**1 Cr 13:6:** (love) does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth

**1 Cr 16:17:** I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part

**2 Cr 2:3-4:** This is the very thing I wrote you, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you

**2 Cr 6:10:** as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things

**2 Cr 7:6-7:** But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus; and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more

**2 Cr 7:9:** I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God

**2 Cr 7:13:** For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all

**2 Cr 7:16:** I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you

**2 Cr 13:9:** For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you be made complete

**2 Cr 13:11:** Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you

**Ph 1:17-19:** the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ

**Ph 2:17-18:** But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me

**Ph 2:27-29:** For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard

**Ph 3:1:** Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you

**Ph 4:4:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

**Ph 4:10:** But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity

**Cl 1:24:** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions

**Cl 2:5:** For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ

**1 Th 3:8-10:** for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord. For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?