

Joy is the Serious Business of Heaven

Philippians 4:4-13

October 25, 2020

Introduction: "Joy is the serious business of heaven" is a quote from C.S. Lewis. When we think of serious, we don't often think of joy, but anxiety. Our lives can be consumed with anxiety and it steals away the joy we have in Christ.

- I. Are you a news junkie? We can get so caught up/consumed with the problems of this world, sin and its results that it puts us in a prison of the mind – stealing our joy in Christ away from us.
- II. What's your prison?
 - A. Humble circumstances
 - B. Finical insecurity
 - C. Hoarding all earthly goods?
 - D. Starvation or gluttony?
 - E. The "Me Monster"
- III. God releases from sin and our prison
- IV. Live with the joy of redemption

Conclusion: The secret of contentment is focusing on Christ. See and think on what he has done, what he does, who he is, and what his promises are. Joy is the serious business of heaven.

Points to Ponder

1. Evaluate this statement: "Peace, not readiness or zeal, acts like a guardian angel for our mental health. This peace resides in Jesus, our refuge" (ESV study notes).
2. Our minds are often set on earthly things and yes, sinful things too. These take away the joy we have in Christ. List a few things we should think less of in our day to day life.
 - A. What is true:
 - B. What is honorable:
 - C. What is right:
 - D. What is pure
 - E. What is lovely
 - F. What is commendable:
3. The Apostle Paul tells us to refocus. Read verse 8. Make a cheat sheet for yourself. List a few things we should think more about. (A secret to contentment).
4. In our prayer and petition life to God our heavenly Father, the Apostle Paul tells us to present them with thanksgiving. When the days seem gloomy and the situation seems dire, how will you pray with thanksgiving to God?