

“REJOICE IN THE LORD”**Introduction**

1. 2 Cor. 6:10: “As sorrowful yet...”
2. Others: Nehemiah 8:10; “Be of good cheer”
3. A double command here (again).

1. IT IS RIGHT THAT AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD REJOICE

*The Christian has every reason to rejoice:

- 1) That God has chosen him to salvation:
 - (i) 1 Thes. 1:2-4
 - (ii) Luke 10:20
OBSERVE: Outward problems are small: Acts 16
- 2) That God is true though all be liars:
 - (i) The existence of God
 - (ii) His character
OBSERVE: If such a God is ours, what are troubles?
ILLUSTRATIONS: Job’s losses did not include God
- 3) That Christ our Saviour has finished His work:
 - (i) God’s justice satisfied
 - (ii) all sin pardoned
 - (iii) we are in God’s family
 - (iv) the angels
OBSERVE: Look at Hebrews 12:22-24
- 4) Time + trouble are short; heaven and happiness will be long
 - (i) “Our light affliction...”
 - (ii) “I reckon...”
ILLUSTRATION: put troubles in the scales
APPLICATION: Let us be a happy people

2. JOY IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS GOOD

- 1) It is evidence of faith
”Disappointment is His appointment”
- 2) It rests in God’s sovereignty:
 - (i) “I thank thee, O Father...”
 - (ii) Job: “The Lord hath given...”
 - (iii) “I must decrease”
- 3) It unites the powers of the soul:
 - (i) sadness paralyzes
 - (ii) Psalm 18: “overleap...”
 - (iii) David v. Goliath
 - (iv) Psalm 84: “from strength...”
- 4) It is a testimony to unbelievers:
 - (i) “Puritan” – “Calvinist” – “evangelicals”
but they see us so happy! (in spite of doctrines)
 - (ii) “A merry heart – medicine”!
OBSERVE: A good tonic

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| PSALM |
| 33: 1 – 7 |
| 84: 4 – 12 |
| 150: 1 – 6 |

3. THINGS WHICH MUST NOT STEAL OUR JOY

- 1) That the “good old days” are over. There will be other good days in the future.
- 2) The appearance of God’s judgements:
 - (i) Hab. 3:17-18
 - (ii) Jer. 31:26
- 3) Alterations in God’s providence: e.g. decline in UK. God used us – now He moves elsewhere (Chine/India/Israel).

APPLICATION

1. “Always”: in all situations!
2. Aim to make others happy, not sad
3. Think often of the “joy of the Lord” – our “strength”
4. **Illustration**: Brethren man in coalmine. Text is tonic.