

The Thanksgiving Blending Conference

November 23-26, 2023

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST AND OUR GROWTH IN LIFE UNTO MATURITY

Message Two

The Joy of the Triune God Becoming Our Joy

JL Hymns: 1153, 717

Scripture Reading: Rom. 15:13; 14:17; John 15:4, 11; Gal. 5:22

- Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.
- Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

I. The Triune God is a God of joy:

- A. Romans 15:13 says, “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace”:
1. This indicates that joy is one of God’s attributes.
 2. God is the God of enjoyment.
 3. In our experience, if we enjoy God as grace, we will have peace, and if we have peace, we will have joy.
- B. Christ is also joy to the believers:
1. In John 15:11 the Lord said, “These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.”
 2. The context of this verse is the Lord’s word concerning the vine and the branches.
 3. For us to be branches of the divine vine is a matter of joy—a joyful life.
 4. Our joy always comes from our abiding in the Lord, from our abiding in His love.
 5. It is in this kind of life that we are full of joy.
 6. This joy is Christ Himself; when He abides in us, His joy abides in us to be the source of our joy that our joy may abound and become full and that we may live our days with joy.
- C. There is joy in the Holy Spirit—Rom. 14:17:
- Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
1. God wants us to enjoy Him and live for His purpose—Neh. 8:10; Eph. 3:11.
Neh 8:10 Then he said to them, Go your way; eat the fat, and drink the sweet wine, and send portions to him for whom nothing has been prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of Jehovah is your strength.
Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 2. The Triune God is a God of joy, and the apostles are fellow workers with the saints for their joy—Rom. 15:13; John 15:11; 17:13; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:22; 2 Cor. 1:24; Phil. 1:25; 2:17-18.
Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.
John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.

- John 17:13 But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world that they may have My joy made full in themselves.
- Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
- Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 2 Cor 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we are fellow workers with you for your joy; for by faith you stand.
- Phil 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of the faith,
- Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
- Phil 2:18 And in like manner you also rejoice, and you rejoice together with me.
3. We may experience the joy of the Lord's word being in our heart— Jer. 15:16.
- Jer 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.
4. A sweet thought revealed in the Word of God is that in Christ God has given Himself to us as grace to be our enjoyment— John 1:14, 16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14:
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- a. In the first reference in the Bible to God's relationship with man, God presents Himself to man as food; this shows that God wants us to enjoy Him—Gen. 2:7, 9; Psa. 16:11; Jer. 15:16.
- Gen 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
- Gen 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Psa 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; / In Your presence is fullness of joy; / At Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
- Jer 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.
- b. God's desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment—Neh. 8:10.
- Neh 8:10 Then he said to them, Go your way; eat the fat, and drink the sweet wine, and send portions to him for whom nothing has been prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of Jehovah is your strength.
- c. The secret to the Christian life is not how much we work for Him but how much we absorb Him and enjoy Him— John 15:4-5; Col. 2:6-7.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- Col 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,
- Col 2:7 Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

II. The joy of the Triune God is becoming our joy:

- A. In His person Christ is our joy:
1. If we abide in the Lord and keep abiding in Him by abiding in His love, we will be filled with joy— John 15:10-11.

- John 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
- John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.
2. The Lord is recovering the matters that have been missed among most Christians, and enjoying the Lord is one of the most important of these matters—1 Pet. 1:8.
1 Pet 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,
 3. The matter of eating and enjoying the Lord is based on John 6:57.
John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 4. The Christian living is a life of eating, drinking, and enjoying the Lord day by day—v. 57; 1 Cor. 10:4.
John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.
 5. In order for us to be faithful, normal, and proper Christians, the primary matter that we need to take care of is enjoying the Lord; this needs to be a vision to us—Prov. 29:18; Acts 26:19.
Prov 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; / But happy is he who keeps the law.
Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
 6. Our spirit needs to take the lead in enjoying the Lord—Heb. 4:12:
Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - a. We must learn to directly use our spirit and let the soul be a follower of the spirit.
 - b. Our spirit must take the lead aggressively in enjoying the Lord.
 7. In His prayer to the Father, the Son said, “Now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world that they may have My joy made full in themselves”—John 17:13:
 - a. The fullness of joy is in the real oneness.
 - b. When we are one in the Father’s name by the Father’s life, enjoying the Father together, we will have the Lord’s joy made full in us—v. 13.
John 17:13 But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world that they may have My joy made full in themselves.
- B. In the church as the kingdom of the Son of God’s love, we experience and enjoy Christ in His all-inclusiveness—Col. 1:12-13, 27; 2:9, 16-17; 3:1, 4, 11:
- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- Col 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
1. Christ is our allotted portion, our good land—the divine inheritance for our enjoyment—1:12.

- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
2. Christ is the reality of every positive thing in the universe—2:16-17.
Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
 3. Christ is the One sitting at the right hand of God—3:1.
Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
 4. Christ dwells in us as our hope of glory—1:27.
Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
 5. Christ is our life—3:4.
Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
 6. Christ is the constituent of the one new man—vv. 10-11.
Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- C. According to 1 Peter 1:8, the believers “exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory”:
1. This joy is immersed in the Lord as glory; thus, it is full of the expression of the Lord.
 2. By believing into the Lord and loving Him, we obtain great joy.
 3. The normal condition of a Christian is to have joy that is full of glory.
- D. Enjoying the Lord has many aspects, such as the joy of the Lord’s presence (Psa. 16:11), the joy of living in the divine romance (S. S. 1:1-4), the joy of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity (2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:14-21), the joy of drinking of the river of God’s pleasures (Psa. 46:4a; 36:8b), the joy of knowing God’s love (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:38-39), the joy of doing God’s will (Psa. 40:8a), the joy of contentment in all circumstances (Phil. 4:11), and entering into the joy of the Lord in the kingdom (Matt. 25:21, 23).
- Psa 16:11 You will make known to me the path of life; / In Your presence is fullness of joy; / At Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
- S. S. 1:1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.
- S. S. 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! / For your love is better than wine.
- S. S. 1:3 Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; / Your name is like ointment poured forth; / Therefore the virgins love you.
- S. S. 1:4 Draw me; we will run after you
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,
- Eph 3:15 Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named,
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
- Psa 46:4a There is a river whose streams gladden the city of God, ...
- Psa 36:8b ... And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me;

- and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers
- Rom 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Psa 40:8a I delight in doing Your will, O My God; ...
- Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
- Matt 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- Matt 25:23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- E. A Christian should be a joyful person—joyful in the Spirit—Gal. 5:22:
- Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
1. The Lord is our joy when we are in Him—Rom. 14:17.
Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
 2. When we are abiding in the Lord, no matter what problem we have, we are joyful, and any difficulty deepens our joy in the Lord—John 15:4.
John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
 3. The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of joy—Rom. 14:17:
Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
 - a. If we are joyful, this indicates that the Holy Spirit in us is also joyful— Gal. 5:22.
Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
 - b. There may be nothing in the outward environment to make us joyful, but the Lord who lives in us is our joy—Col. 1:27.
Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,