

God gives us joy in knowing Christ.

1. Our Joy During Adversity Comes only Through Christ.

Phil.

- a. For joy, we must pray, promote the gospel, and remain steadfast with Christ (1).
- b. We must think like Christ, have unity in Christ, and have the humility of Christ (2).
- c. We must know Christ and His knowledge (3), to receive the peace of Christ (4).

“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,”
... *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* ... *“I can do all things through him who strengthens me,” Phil. 2:8-11...4:4-7 ... 13*

2. Christ is Supreme and Sufficient for Our Every Need.

Col. 1-2

- a. We must know Christ’s Person and Power—Creator of all, Redeemer of many (1).
- b. He is Head of His church and all rulers; we proclaim Him with His wisdom (1:24-2:3).
- c. In Him we have freedom from religious deceit, vanity, ridicule, idolatry, and heresy (2).

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” ... *“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority,” Col. 1:15-20 ... 2:9-10*

3. We Must Submit Fully to Christ, Being Transformed to a Holy Life in Him.

Col. 3-4

- a. In Him we have freedom from “old” earthly immorality, anger, etc. which are dead (3).
- b. In Him we have a “new” life of holiness, kindness, humility, harmony, etc. in Christ (3).
- c. We must continue steadfastly in prayer, thanksgiving, wisdom and His grace for all (4).

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory,” Col. 3:1-4

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