

ADVENT AND THE HEART

“An Excited Heart”

Scripture Reading: LUKE 2:8-14

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-9**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) Tell story of the electric football game.
-) **SLIDE 10**. We are in the third week of this Season of Advent. And in this season, we eagerly anticipate celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And this Savior promises He will make many changes in the heart of the believer.
-) **SLIDE 11**. The first week we learned that hope would mature the heart of the believer. And last week we learned how peace will guard the heart of the believer. Now moving on today.
-) **SLIDE 12**. I have titled today’s message *“An Excited Heart.”*
-) **SLIDE 13**. And what is our theme word for today? Today’s word is *“joy.”* Today we are going to see how joy will excite our hearts. (LIGHT CANDLE)
-) **SLIDE 14**. Joy. And just like the word *“peace”* from last week, *“joy”* is also a fruit of the Spirit. If hope matures our hearts and peace guards our hearts, joy **EXCITES** our hearts.
-) **SLIDE 15**. How does Webster define *“joy?”* Read. This definition from a worldly standpoint is good.
-) So, let’s get back to my story of the electric football game. Yes, I did get emotional in a very good way when I learned that I possessed that electric football game on Christmas day. And, yes, it was a source or cause of delight. From a worldly standpoint, and a worldly Webster definition, I had worldly joy over that electric football game.

-) But I don't believe these definitions define Biblical joy. And let me explain why I feel that way.
-) Joy, according to these Webster definitions, may or will be temporary. I may have been joyful when I first got my electric football game. After a few weeks, it was no longer a cause for delight. The novelty had worn off.
-) **SLIDE 16.** Biblical joy, on the other hand, lasts for eternity. It is a gift of the Spirit to all true believers. Read JOHN 16:22. In this statement Jesus not only promises joy but also adds that no one will take it away. A believer's joy will remain forever.
-) **SLIDE 17.** So, I came up with my own definition for the word "joy" and I think it resembles more of a Biblical definition.
-) So why should we have joy in our lives? Why should we be excited? In last week's message I said that believers have worry and anxiety in their lives over family, financial, health, and past issues. Every day has its challenges so why should we be excited?
-) Why should I have excitement in my heart? And does this mean I have to walk around all day with a smile on my face pretending I have joy when in reality I am facing challenges?
-) The answers to those questions rest in the priorities you set in your life. Think about this. What is the worst situation that can ever happen to a person? One could have cancer. One could have been in a bad automobile accident. One could be going through a divorce. One could be addicted to drugs. One could have experienced the death of a spouse or a child. One could have COVID. One may have lost their job.
-) Yes, these are all tough situations. I would not want to go through any of these for any length of time. But none of these situations qualify for the worst situation a person could encounter.

-) **SLIDE 18.** The worst situation and most frightening thing that could ever happen to a human being is found in MATT 7:22-23. And that would be dying and going to hell. Because that pain lasts for eternity.
-) So why do I have joy in my life? Why should my heart excited? Because I know, because of God's promise to me as a believer, that the worst thing that could ever happen to a human being will never happen to me. I am saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, my hope, and therefore I have eternal life. And my joy rests in the security of that eternity.
-) I teach eternal security because the Bible teaches eternal security. So, let me ask you, "*Could you truly have joy in your life if you knew you could lose your salvation?*"
-) **SLIDE 19.** Let's look at my definition of joy again. No. Joy and the assurance of our eternity go hand and hand.
-) I want us to have joy here this morning over the assurance of the salvation that we have in Jesus Christ.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Read JOHN 3:36;5:24;6:47.
-) **SLIDE 21.** Same verses with underline. Eternal life begins the moment you are born again by the Holy Spirit—the moment you first believed.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Eternal life is not only a **FUTURE** tense promise; it is a **PRESENT** tense reality. We need to remember that. That gives us joy! That excites our hearts!
-) I'm going to give you five different Scripture verses that give us assurance of our salvation which, in turn, will give us joy.
-) **SLIDE 23.** Read JOHN 6:35-37.
-) **SLIDE 24.** All that the Father gives to Jesus, Jesus will **NEVER** cast out. The Father is preparing a bride for His Son. It's a love gift. And Jesus will never cast out who the Father has given to Him.

-) **SLIDE 25**. Read JOHN 10:27-30.
-) **SLIDE 26**. Jesus gives us eternal life and we shall never **PERISH**. No one can snatch us out of the hand of the Father or the Son. Explain.
-) Let's look at some of the epistles.
-) **SLIDE 27**. Read ROMANS 8:1.
-) **SLIDE 28**. Since we have been set **FREE** from the law of sin, there is no condemnation for the believer. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 29**. Read PHILIPPIANS 1:3-6.
-) **SLIDE 30**. God began the good work in us and will see it through on to **COMPLETION**. Explain.
-) **SLIDE 31**. Read 1PETER 1:3-5.
-) **SLIDE 32**. Our inheritance is **PROTECTED** by God's power. Explain. God-centered theology vs man-centered theology.
-) If we are taught and therefore believe that we could lose our salvation because it was up to our own ability to maintain it and keep it, we would lose it. Every day. Because we all fail.
-) Do you have joy in your life? Repeat. Is your joy complete? Do you know that if you are sitting in here today and you are a true believer, that your eternity is secure? Just think—the absolute worst thing that could ever happen to a person will never happen to you. And that should excite your heart!
-) **SLIDE 33**. The angel told the shepherds, "*Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people.*" The joy of a Savior—a Messiah. The joy of knowing we will one day be with Jesus for eternity.
-) **SLIDE 34**. Hope **MATURES** our heart. Peace **GUARDS** our heart. Joy **EXCITES** our hearts.
-) We have one more way our Savior changes our hearts. Let's see what He brings us next week.

12/13/2020 at Beech Grove Christian Church