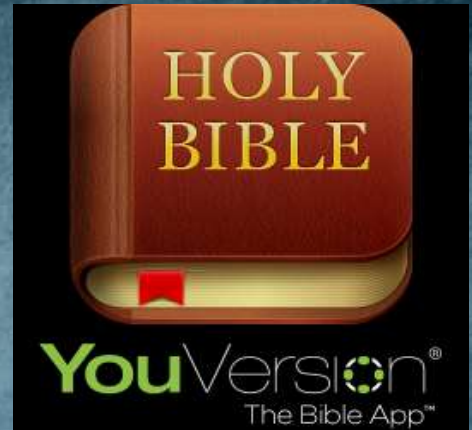




Scripture



Look for our event!

Matthew 13:44-46

Surprised by Joy

8/02/2020

Jeremiah 2:11-13 -

“Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

~**C.S. Lewis**

I. Christ is Glorious as our Treasure

John 1:16 -

“From His fulness we receive grace upon grace.”

John 10:10 -

“I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly.”

II Corinthians 6:10 -

“Having nothing, yet possessing all things.”

“Christ Jesus has true excellency, and so great excellency, that when (the mind) comes to see it, it looks no further, but the mind rests there. It sees a transcendent glory and an ineffable sweetness in (Christ); it sees that until now it has been pursuing shadows, but that now it has found the substance; [that before it had been searching for beams, but now has found the Sun]; that before it had been seeking happiness in the stream, but now it has found the ocean...

The soul is exceedingly ravished when it first looks on this beauty, and it is never weary of it... No other object is so great, noble, and exalted. This excellency of Jesus Christ is the suitable food of the rational soul. The soul that comes to Christ, feeds upon this, and lives upon it...here the longing soul may be satisfied, and the hungry soul may be filled with goodness...The soul has found the river of water of life, and it desires no other drink; it has found the tree of life, and desires no other fruit.”

~Jonathan Edwards

II. Those Who Treasure Christ are Filled with Joy

John 15:11 -

“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

“As I grew to manhood, I was inflamed with a desire for hell’s pleasures... I went to Carthage, where I found myself in a hissing cauldron of lust”

“I, a miserable young man, supremely miserable even in the very outset of my youth, had pleaded to You for chastity, and said, 'Grant me chastity and self-control, but not yet.' For I was afraid that you would hear me soon, and soon deliver me from the disease of sexual sin, which I desired to have satisfied rather than extinguished.”

“But You, O Lord, are good and merciful, and your right hand had respect unto the profoundness of my death, and removed from the bottom of my heart that abyss of corruption... How sweet did it suddenly become to me to be without the delights of trifles! And what at one time I feared to lose, it was now a joy to me to put away. For You cast them away from me...and instead of them did enter in Yourself - sweeter than all sweeter than all pleasure.”

~Augustine

II. Those Who Treasure Christ are Filled with Joy

I Peter 1:8-9 -

“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

II. Those Who Treasure Christ are Filled with Joy

Habakkuk 3:17-18 -

“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”

III. Those Filled with Joy Forsake All Else

Matthew 10:37-38 -

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me."

Matthew 6:24 -

"You cannot love God and money!"

III. Those Filled with Joy Forsake All Else

Mark 10:21 -

“Go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven.”

Jonah 2:4 -

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace which could be theirs"

III. Those Filled with Joy Forsake All Else

Philippians 3:7-8 -

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”

III. Those Filled with Joy Forsake All Else

Psalm 73:25-26 -

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my Portion forever.”