

Pastoral Notes

'A Joyful Heart'

Ecclesiastes 9: 4-7.

As we continue our celebration of the Advent season, on the third Sunday we lit the candle of Joy. A Christian may not have a pocketful of money, a closet full of shoes, a house full of expensive art, but **everyone who claims to be a Christian ought to have Joy**. Joy is a Christian characteristic and may be described as 'happiness on steroids'. Joy is **the ability to see light, even, amid darkness**.

Key Sermonic Points

1. *It's a joy to be seen and not viewed*
2. *Rejoice that God has given you another day*
3. *You can have Joy because God has your back*

One reason we can have joy is **because we have an ever-present hope founded on the grace of God and the finished work of Jesus**. That is why no matter how hard life may be for us, our hope gives us a reason to have a Joyful Heart.

When you are going through the storms of life and seasons of misfortune, consider the fact that **you are still here** and have the opportunity to overcome it. As famous as Michael Jackson was, would you really trade places with him now? Most of us would say no. Solomon, the

writer of the book of Ecclesiastes said, 'even a live dog is better off than a dead lion'. That is true because a lion can only be king of the jungle as long as it is alive.

Because you have life, you ought to have a joyful heart and thank God for allowing you to see another day.

Most of us don't like to think about death even though we know we are likely going to die before going to heaven. That is because we realize that, while life is not easy, **it is still better to be on this**

side of the dirt. You can't earn your salvation but you can earn rewards which Jesus says he will bring when he returns.

Christmas is the season to be jolly which means it is the season to have joy. **Enjoy time with family and friends** and eat with merriment, all the great food God has provided. Everything God has made is good. Enjoy your food and drink in moderation and **don't forget to give thanks to God with a Joyful Heart**.

This message can be obtained by visiting our

Nuggets:

website, or through purchase
of a CD.

Stay Blessed,
Pastor Robbie