

# “Rejoice In The Lord”

No. 190

## Introduction.

I. A **scoffer once asked a Christian**, “What advantage has a Christian over one like me? Doesn’t the sun shine on me as on him?” The Christian replied, “Yes, but the Christian has two suns shining on him at once; one on his body, the other on his soul.”

II. **Truly, the Christian has two suns shining on him at once.** The Christian has a sun shining on his body and his soul. He has great happiness because he has come into Christ and has sweet fellowship with Him.

A. He can sing the words of this great hymn.

<p>There is sunshine in my soul today, More glorious and bright Than glows in any earthly sky, For Jesus is my Light.</p> <p>O there’s sunshine, blessed sunshine, When the peaceful, happy moments roll; When Jesus shows His smiling face, There is sunshine in the soul.</p> <p>There is music in my soul today, A carol to my King, And Jesus, listening, can hear The songs I cannot sing.</p>	<p>There is springtime in my soul today, For, when the Lord is near, The dove of peace sings in my heart, The flowers of grace appear.</p> <p>There is gladness in my soul today, And hope and praise and love, For blessings which He gives me now, For joys ““laid up”” above.</p>
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B. The Bible also emphasizes that the child of God is to be filled with gladness and joy. (Psa. 100:1,2; Jn. 16:33; Gal. 5:22, 23; Rom.12:12; Phil. 3:1; 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16).

1. From these wonderful statements we notice that the child of God is to be full of joy and gladness.

2 He is to rejoice evermore with joy unspeakable because he is in the Lord - because he is a Christian.

III. Let’s discuss some of the reasons why we rejoice in the Lord.

I. **Sins Have Been Forgiven** - Christians rejoice because our sins have been forgiven.

A. **We were once under the condemnation of sin.** We were separated from God. We had no joy. We had no gladness. We had no hope. But once when we came to Christ all our sins were forgiven. We emerged from the waters of baptism having all our sins washed away by the precious blood of Jesus.

B. **As Christians we must still struggle with sin.** Because he has a new Master we to please Him. We hate sin and seek to overcome it, but we can never completely overcome sins. It casts us down and fill us with feeling of guilt and condemnation. It destroys our happiness and joy.

C. But thanks be to God, we not have to live with guilt and condemnation.

1. **John** wrote to Christians. (1 Jn. 1:7, 9).

2. **God** says to those who trust in His Son. (Heb. 8:12).

a. **God** here promises that He will remember our sins no more.

b. This does not mean that God will forget our sins because God is omniscient and cannot forget.

c. It means God forgives our sins and will never bring them up again. They are gone forever. We do not need to fear their wretched consequences. What a cause for rejoicing!

II. **God Oversees Their Lives** - Christians rejoice because God oversees our lives. (Rom. 8:28).

A. Observe the unwavering confidence of Paul.

1. He exclaims that “we know.”

2. **What do we know?**

3. We know that “all things work together for good.”

a. God oversees our lives and makes both the good and evil things that come upon us work together for our eternal good.

b. **Once an old man, who was a leper, astounded some missionaries.** He exclaimed, “I am glad I am a leper! For if I had not been a leper, I would not have come to this hospital and would never learned to know Jesus. I had rather be a leper with Jesus Christ than free from leprosy without Him.” His leprosy had worked for his eternal good.

B. **And all the good and bad things that happen to us work for our eternal good.** God uses these things to make us more understanding and humble. God uses these things to make us spiritually stronger. He uses these things to lead us to draw closer to Him. He uses these things to bring us home to glory.

III. **Names Are Written In Heaven** - Christians rejoice because our names are written in heaven. (Lk. 10:20).

A. Faithful children of God who have been born of water and the Spirit have their names written in heaven, in the Lamb’s book of life.

1. At the judgment this book will be opened and everyone has his name written in this book will enter heaven.

2. Those who do not have their names written in this book will be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:15; 21:27).

B. **A man once asked a little boy if his horse could go fast.** The lad replied, “No, sir, but he can stand fast.” This is the surest way to keep our names written in the book of life.

1. We must stand fast in the faith.

2. Paul gave us these admonitions. (1 Cor. 15:58; 16:13).

IV. **Bringing Others Into God’s Kingdom** - Christians rejoice by bringing others into God’s kingdom.

- A. It is a thrill to hit a home run or make a touchdown. It is a thrill to excel in music, art, and in other endeavors.
  - B. But none of these thrills compare to the thrill of bringing another to Christ.
    - 1. It is joyful thrill to snatch another from the power and condemnation of Satan.
    - 2. It is a joyful thrill to see a person become more and more like Christ each day and find the happiness Christ offers.
    - 3. It is a thrill to know that the one you have brought to Christ will enjoy eternal blessings. No other thrill can compare to this.
  - C. Some years ago **a young man in his 20's**, who was a close friend of mine, became very excited about sharing Christ. He was nervous and inexperienced, but still he mustered enough courage to set up a Bible study with a family and began showing them a series of film strips. One night he called me about 10:00 and was excited almost beyond words. The family desired to put Christ on in baptism and wanted to be baptized that night. I drove to the church building and witnessed the baptisms as he personally baptized each one into Christ. I shall never forget the joy he experienced that evening and the great joy I have seen him experience on other occasions as he led others to Christ. This same joy belongs to all Christians who share Christ with the perishing.
- V. **A Home In Heaven** - Christians rejoice because we have a home in heaven. (Matt. 5:3, 8, 10-12; Jn. 14:1-3).
- A. We can joyfully look forward with great anticipation to the time when heaven will be our home.
  - B. Heaven is a perfect place where the righteous will reign forever with Christ and enjoy all the good things He has prepared for us. The realization that heaven will be our eternal home should make us rejoice every day.

### **Conclusion.**

- I. These are some of the reasons why Christian can and should rejoice. God has made every provision for our happiness here and in the hereafter. Therefore, as Christians, we can rejoice with joy unspeakable.
- II. **In the closing part of Acts the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter** we read about Philip teaching the Ethiopian eunuch about Christ as they road along in the eunuch's chariot.
  - A. After they had gone a ways and the eunuch had been taught about Christ and salvation, Luke records these words. (Acts 8:36-39).
  - B. The eunuch rejoiced because he had come into Christ and had received the remission of sins and would now receive the other great blessings Christ gives His followers.
- III. **These blessings can all be yours and you can leave this building rejoicing, singing,** "There is sunshine in my soul today."
  - A. To have these coveted blessings you must come and confess your faith in Jesus, turn from your sins, and be buried with Christ in baptism.
  - B. We invite you to come to Jesus, the Savior of the world. Confess Jesus as God's God and Him your Savior. Come as we sing His invitation.

