

# Advent 2015

Responding to the Gift of God: A Call to Worship – Hebrews 10:19–39

*Remembering the Joy of Our Salvation*

Sermon Outline – December 20, 2015

## Children's Sermon: What Kills the Joy of Our Salvation?

### Galatians 5:22

But *the fruit of the Spirit* is love, *joy*, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...

### James 1:14–15; 4:3 (HCSB)

<sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own *evil desires*. <sup>15</sup> Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death. ...

<sup>3</sup> You ask and don't receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your *evil desires*.

### What Makes a Desire 'Evil'?

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| ✓ The desire itself is Evil              | Heat  |
| ✓ You are willing to sin to get it       | Fruit |
| ✓ You get into sin because you can't get | Heart |

### Psalm 51:6–12

<sup>6</sup> Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> *Let me hear joy and gladness*; let the bones that you have broken *rejoice*. <sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. <sup>10</sup> *Create in me a clean heart*, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> *Restore to me the joy of your salvation*, and uphold me with a *willing spirit*.

Notes:

*Anti-Faith, Hope & Love: The Joy Killer*

1. Draw near with **Faith**
2. Hold onto **Hope**
3. Provoke into **Love**

1. Hold onto **Evil Desires** (False hope)
2. Provoke **Sin** (Attitudes & Actions, bad fruit)
3. Hide in **Unbelief** (False faith)

## Key Idea

We are either gaining gospel momentum leading to righteousness and life or we are snowballing down into disobedience and death.

### *Remember the Joy of Eternal Life*

**Matt. 5:12** "*Rejoice and be glad*, for your reward is great in heaven..."

### We Are in Need of Endurance

<sup>35</sup> **Therefore** do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup> For *you have need of **endurance...***

**Crazy Gospel Joy!** (To the unenlightened mind)

<sup>32</sup> But **recall** the former days when, *after you were enlightened*, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, <sup>33</sup> sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. <sup>34</sup> ...you **joyfully** accepted the plundering of your property, since you **knew** that you yourselves had a **better possession** and **an abiding one**.

Not  
Circumstances

Our Joy

What is  
Happening  
in our  
Hearts

Faith

Hope

### The Joy of the Holy Spirit

#### 1 Thessalonians 1:6

<sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the **joy of the Holy Spirit...**

#### Romans 5:2b–5

...we rejoice in **hope** of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we **rejoice** in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character<sup>1</sup>, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's**

<sup>1</sup> **In English:** "moral excellence and firmness (e.g. 'a man of sound character')"  
**Miriam-Webster**

**In Greek:** "'watching' both of person and object thus denotes a. 'tested in battle,' 'reliable,' 'trustworthy,' b. 'a man who is tested, significant, recognized, esteemed, worthy.'" Kittel, G., Bromiley, G. W., & Friedrich, G. (Eds.). (1964–). **Theological dictionary of the New Testament** (Vol. 2, p. 255). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

*love* has been poured into our hearts through the *Holy Spirit* who has been given to us.

### James 1:2–4

<sup>2</sup> *Count it all joy*, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the *testing* (character) of your faith produces *steadfastness*. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

### *Joy Grows Out of Faith, Hope & Love*

#### Key Question

How do we cultivate gospel growth or gain gospel momentum leading to righteousness, joy and eternal life?

### Do Not Throw Away Your Faith Hope & Love

<sup>35</sup> Therefore do not throw away *your confidence*, **Faith** which has a *great reward*. <sup>36</sup> For *you have need of endurance*, so that when you have *done the will of God* you may *receive what is promised*. <sup>37</sup> For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; <sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall *live by faith*, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” <sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who *shrink back* and *are destroyed*, but of those who *have faith* and *preserve their souls*. **Hope**  
**Love**

### Tend Your Heart with The Word & The Spirit

#### Proverbs 4:23 (HCSB)

*Guard your heart* above all else, for it is *the source of life*.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Pray (Trusting God)

#### Psalms 139:23–24 (HCSB)

<sup>23</sup> *Search me, God*, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Obey God/Jesus

#### John 15:7–11

<sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and *my words abide in you*, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit

and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you *keep my commandments*, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, *that my joy may be in you*, and that *your joy may be full*.

### Jeremiah 17:5–10 (Cf. Three Trees Diagram)

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord:

*“Cursed is the man who trusts in man* and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup> *He is like a shrub in the desert*, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> *“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord*, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup> *He is like a tree planted by water*, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear *when heat comes*, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the *year of drought*, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

<sup>9</sup> *The heart is deceitful* above all things, and *desperately sick*; who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> “I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

#### Key Idea

Prayerfully tend to the desires of your heart. **Believe the Truth, Trust in the Promised Life & Follow the Way of Love.** This is where **Christian Joy** & is found.