

Sermon ~ Sunday, October 18, 2020

Text: Philippians 4: 4

KJV – “Rejoice in The LORD always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.”

Title: “Why are You So Blessed?”

It’s not that I always have been. I recall someone saying to my wife and I, “I must not be living right!” They were measuring our *material worth* at the time. As I think back, I shout in *praise* to **GOD**, for we know, we worth *much more* than things!!!

{Was it for crimes, that I had done, that **HE** groaned upon the tree? Amazing pity **GRACE** unknow, it was **LOVE** beyond degree. Calvary, Calvary, every time I think about Calvary, surely, **HE** died for me!!!}

“Why are You So Blessed?”

Our culture is so obsessed with *happiness*... from *Movies*—Netflix, ESPN, HULU, Sling; *Purchases*—Amazon, eBay, Walmart, QVC, Rakuten; *Technology*; *Social Media*... Numbers untold live for *happiness*.

Author, Dennis Prager gave this definition for *happiness*... *Happiness* is,  $H=nF$ ... that is, *Happiness* is equivalent to the number (*n*) of *fun* (*F*) experiences, we have in a lifetime. The more *fun* experiences, the *happier* we are. To be *happy* is to ‘*feel*’ good and to have *fun*. (laughing, playing, drinking, drugging, dancing, pleasure-seeking. Even if you can not do it like you use too, be *happy*!)

But **The BIBLE** has a different view of the goal of human life. **The BIBLE** teaches that the goal of life is to “**Love GOD** and your neighbor as yourself!” (Mark 12: 28-34) This is to be “*blessed*” regardless of how you ‘*feel*.’ To be “*blessed*” is not about ‘*feelings*’ or, what you have or do not have, but ‘*being right with GOD*!’

“Why are You So Blessed?”

**The BIBLE** says, “Rejoice”, that is, “be full of *Joy*.”

“Rejoice in **The LORD** always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.” Obviously, this is not for everyone!

Read it, hear it again... it’s not ‘Rejoice most of the time.’ No, it has not changed,

“Rejoice in **The LORD** always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.”

I’m not asking, numb yourself to this year 2020 tragedies, tears, threats. But **GOD** is commanding us (**CHRISTIANS**) to “Rejoice always!” **GOD** through the Apostle Paul is asking, ‘What reason(s) do you have to not “Rejoice always!” Though in this season of dark, disgusted, depression and despair, answer the question,

“Why are You So Blessed?”

So glad they asked...

1. Read Philippians 4: 13, "I can do all things through **CHRIST** which strengtheneth me."  
I'm "blessed" through **CHRIST**! I "Rejoice in **The LORD**..." If you don't have a relationship and living fellowship with **JESUS CHRIST**; if **JESUS** isn't **LORD** of your life; if **JESUS** isn't your day through the day focus; if **JESUS** is not an indwelling Personality in you, it can not be done!

This world is to mean to be *happy* every day. Even with inside and outside help(s), the storms of life: *disappointment, sadness, regrets, dismay, sorrows*, will come. But I have, **JESUS** and **JESUS** have me (you), and **JESUS** can say, "Peace, be still!"

Don't think, because you say, '**GOD** understands... **GOD** know what I'm feeling... I asked **GOD** to forgive me, and **HE** did, and when I get myself together, then... These want help you when the storms of life rage. [Don't start with the *problem*, in pursuit for a *solution*! Start with **The SOLUTION—JESUS**, and your *problem* is solved!] **JESUS** can say, "Peace, be still!"

So glad they asked...

2. Read Philippians 4: 12, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound..."  
Most just want to "abound, a verb, meaning to exist in large numbers or amounts."

I'm *not* asking, numb yourself to this year 2020 *tragedies, tears, threats*. But you can't have sunshine *without* rain.

And shame on those preachers who are telling you "if you want it, believe/claim it, and you will receive it. What if **GOD** says **NO!** Shame on those preachers who says, you should *never* be sick, *never* without, *never* sad. Verse 12 goes on to say, "I know both how to be abased (belittled, degraded), and I know how to be abounded (have a lot): everywhere and in all things, I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both [how] to abound and to suffer need."

Point: Whatever **The LORD** choose for me, it's always enough! If we thought more on *what we have*, than on *what we don't have*. We're Rejoice more!!!

I guess I will ask, "What do you have?" (Life, health and strength; clothed in your right mind; shelter over you head, even if its an overpass; you're not naked; shoes for your feet. If not, you got feet...)

So glad they asked...

3. Read Philippians 4: 11, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, [see—it's a learning process] in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content." No matter what, **GOD** has something for me to 'do.'

4. Read Philippians 4: 9, "Those things, which ye have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the **GOD** of peace shall be with you." You can not have peace simply because you've *learned, received, heard*... you must '*do*.' The Joy in Rejoicing comes when you '*do*.' If you want '*do*' what **GOD** says, you won't have Joy to Rejoice. You can not have rest or be perfectly blessed until you've become a '*doer*' of **HIS WORD**, instead of a hearer only!!!

5. Read Philippians 4: 8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Point: Get your mind out of the gutter! Maybe you can't "Rejoice" because of guilt, shame, unconfessed *sin(s)* or you want *forgive*. You got to stop thinking Donald Trump... *my this* and *my that*. Start with **JESUS** being your example, you clean up your mind, and whatever is still bugging you, tell **GOD** about it.

6. Read Philippians 4: 6 and 7, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto **GOD**. And the peace of **GOD**, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through **CHRIST JESUS**." This is a command. To be anxious is always a *sin*, because anxiety is a sign no Faith in **GOD** (Romans 14: 23). Our **GOD** is a *Loving* and **All-Powerful heavenly FATHER**. **HE** will take care of **HIS Children** (I Peter 5: 7). However, when you have a need for something, we *must* ask **GOD** for it (Matthew 6: 11; 7: 7-8) **GOD** know what we need before we ask for it. **GOD** hears our requests, and **HE** always gives us an answer.

**The Peace of GOD**... when we allow **GOD'S Peace** into our minds, anxiety goes out. Peace and anxiety are opposites. **GOD'S Peace** is greater than our understanding. We see things that makes us anxious; but when **GOD'S Peace** comes, our anxiety is overcome. But **The Peace of GOD** is available only in **CHRIST JESUS**. Apart from **CHRIST, The HOLY SPIRIT** does not dwell within us. And if **The HOLY SPIRIT** is not in our life, there will be no peace either.

7. Read Philippians 4: 4 again, "Rejoice in **The LORD** always: *and* again I say, Rejoice." This is not a suggestion; it's a command.  
"Rejoice in **The LORD** always: *and* again I say, Rejoice."

### **"Why are You So Blessed?"**

This Joy that I have, the world didn't give to me  
This Joy that I have, the world didn't give to me  
This Joy that I have, the world didn't give to me  
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away!

The Love that I have, the world didn't give to me  
The Love that I have, the world didn't give to me  
The Love that I have, the world didn't give to me  
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away!

**The HOLY GHOST** that I have, the world didn't give to me  
**The HOLY GHOST** that I have, the world didn't give to me  
**The HOLY GHOST** that I have, the world didn't give to me  
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away!

This Joy that I have, the world didn't give to me  
This Joy that I have, the world didn't give to me  
This Joy that I have, the world didn't give to me  
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away!

(Black Gospel Lyrics)