


II Cor. 4:16,17

# THE JOY OF CHRISTIANITY




# Introduction

- Many only see their faith as burdensome.
  - Many only see the suffering in following Jesus.
  - “Christians can’t have fun!”
  - “Woe is me” mindset.
  - John 10: 9,10.
  - The thief (Satan) comes to steal, kill, and destroy!
  - Christ came so that we can have abundance!!
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# Why Have Joy?

- 1. Because Christ was willing to live and die for our sins.
  - II Cor. 8:9
  - Christ the beauty and riches of Heaven for us.
  - He put on flesh and suffered for our sake.
  - He lived a life free of sin to become our perfect sacrifice.
  - He is our example to follow.
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# Why Have Joy?

- 2. He died for unrighteous people.
  - Romans 5: 6-8.
  - Sometimes a person may be willing to die for a righteous man.
  - Some may even die for a good man.
  - But not many will die for the unrighteous.
  - Died for people who would hate him, persecute him, beat him, wound him, etc.
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# Why Have Joy?

- 3. Christ had joy in suffering for us.
- Heb. 12: 1-4.
- He did not find joy in being mocked and spit on.
- He did not find joy in being nailed to the cross.
- The joy came from knowing that he was saving man from sin.
- It also came from the possibility of fellowshiping with man.

# Why Have Joy?


- 4. He rose from the dead that we might have joy.
- I Cor. 15:20 – 23.
- Jesus' resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian belief.
- It proves that there will be life after death!
- It proves that not even death can keep us in the grave!

# Why Have Joy?

- 5. Because we will have new bodies when Jesus appears again.
- I Cor. 15:51 – 58.
- Jesus gives us power over death.
- We will be given immortal bodies for eternity.
- No other man/prophet, etc. can make such an offer.
- It should produce joy in our hearts!!!




# Why Have Joy?

- 5. Because Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven.
  - John 14: 1-4.
  - Every faithful Christian should have joy because of this.
  - We will get to spend eternity with God.
  - No more pain, suffering, and sorrow.
  - Eternal bliss is waiting for the faithful!
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# Why Have Joy?

- 6. Because our troubles today are no comparison to our Heavenly reward.
  - II Cor. 4: 16,17.
  - Like Jesus, we find no joy in trials and tribulations.
  - Joy comes from knowing that trials bring us closer to God.
  - We find joy in realizing that trials are only temporary and things will get better one day!
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# Why Have Joy?

- 7. Because we can approach the throne of God in prayer.
  - Heb. 4: 14-16.
  - Only through Christ can we speak to God in prayer.
  - Only through Christ is God's ears open to our prayers.
  - We can turn our problems over to God thru prayer!!!
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# Why Have Joy?

- 8. Because Christ promised never leave nor forsake us.
- Romans 8: 35 -38.
- If we obey Him, we can be assured that He is always with us.
- We never have to worry about God being there.
- God should be our rock in this life!!!!

# Why Have Joy?

- 9. Because Christ is our advocate.
- 1 John 2:1.
- He stands before God and constantly pleads our case.
- He pleads OUR SIN before God!!
- He continues to provide a way for our past and present sins to be forgiven.

# Why Have Joy?

- 10. Because Christ made salvation possible for whosoever will obey Him.
- Eph. 2: 13 – 16.
- This was not always the case for all of mankind.
- Did away with the need to be a proselyte.
- Could not worship together under old law.
- Christ says that can worship Him the same way.



# Conclusion

- Christians have access to a joy that the world can't give or take away.
  - That joy can only be found in Christ.
  - Life is too short not to have Joy.
  - True joy comes from the spiritual blessings given by God!
  - True joy comes from walking daily with Jesus!
  - True joy keeps life in perspective.
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