

How To Rejoice In The Lord

Philippians 3:1 and Philippians 4:4 tell us to rejoice in The Lord. What does that mean? How do we do that appropriately?

No, this is not a sermon about worship, although it applies to that. It's about far more than worship.

If someone asked you what the best part of White Rock church of Christ is, what would be your answer? Would it be something about it currently? Would it be a lament about something that once was? Would it be the potential for something in the future?

Maybe it would be a particular activity, or program, or particular people you like.

This is not a vain question. It sets the stage for how we can apply Jeremiah 9:23-24.

We typically boast in things we think make us great. We tend to promote those things.

Human nature has not changed over the millennia. We have always thought the same way.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 is where we will look tonight.

- I. "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom."
 - A. Solomon
 1. The wisest man on earth outside of Christ. (1 Kings 3:12; God told Solomon He would give him a wise and discerning mind, more than anyone before or after him)
 2. His wisdom did not keep him from ruining much of his life (Ecclesiastes).
 - B. Wisdom is good to pursue (Proverbs 2:1-8)
 1. It is a gift God allows us to have.
 2. It will protect us in life if we follow it.
 - C. Wisdom as an end in itself will not help us.
 1. Ecclesiastes 1:16-18
 2. Romans 1:22 ("Claiming to be wise they became fools")
 3. 1 Corinthians 1:19-20, 26-27
 - D. Related to this (and one use of the word "wisdom") is the idea of education.
 1. There is a tendency to place too great an emphasis on "secular education"
 - a) It is needed and necessary
 - b) It is not the cure-all for our problems in life. God will not ask if you have a degree to enter heaven! -Even if we have the greatest educational system in the world!
 2. To remove God from education creates educated fools.
 - E. True knowledge and wisdom is the knowledge of God!
- II. "Let not the mighty man boast in his might."
 - A. Sampson was an example of trusting in might.
 1. It seems that he was so confident because of his strength.
 2. His strength failed him because of his emotional and spiritual weaknesses.
 3. While Sampson had the power and might to overcome any number of foes, he never had the ability to overcome himself.
 - B. Physical strength and might is good in its own realm.
 - C. But our strength cannot be trusted in. Ecclesiastes 9:11

- D. Proverbs 18:10
 - E. As Americans, we tend to glory in our might as a nation.
 1. The strength of a nation is not measured in how many bombs it has.
 2. Our military spending is more than the next twenty nations combined each year. But the strength of a nation is not found in how much money it puts in the military machine.
 3. The strength of a nation is ultimately dependent upon whether God allows it to stand against its enemies.
- III. Let not the rich man boast in his riches.
- A. Riches are so deceptive!
 1. Matthew 19:23-24
 2. Proverbs 10:15; 18:11
 - B. We live in a very rich country. We feel like we have all we need, so much so that as a nation we feel like we no longer even need God. (Niche-- "God is dead and we have killed him.")
 - C. It will do no good in the end.
 1. Families work long hours to build wealth.
 2. In the end it must be left to someone. You can't take it with you! Hearse with U-Haul?
 - a) Ecclesiastes 6:2
 - b) Ecclesiastes 5:15
 - D. It is not wrong to have riches, as long as they are not our life's focus.
 1. Deuteronomy 8:17-18
 2. 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- IV. Let him who glories, glory in this: that he understands and knows me.
- A. Knowing and understanding God is our life's ambition--in Scripture, this idea ALWAYS includes knowing and obeying His commands.
 - B. All of life is vanity without Him
 1. (point of Ecclesiastes)
 2. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - C. This is what it means to "rejoice in the Lord" (Philippians 4:4)
 1. If we glory, let it be in God.
 2. Blessed is the man who finds joy in obeying the Lord.
 3. This comes down to attitude, priorities and relationship.
 - D. In the book of Jeremiah:
 1. The people gloried in their position as God's people instead of in God.
 2. They gloried in false gods
 3. They gloried in the might of their allies to save them from Babylon
 4. They gloried in their wealth as a nation and their wisdom as a light to the world
 5. Yet they went into captivity for 70 years because they forgot where their wisdom, might and riches were located--IN GOD.
 - E. Good questions to ask ourselves:
 1. Where do we stand as a nation? What is it we glory in and trust in?
 2. Where do we stand as a congregation? What do we glory in: Numbers? Programs? Preacher?
 3. Where do we stand as individuals? What is it that you glory in?