

Joy ^{to the} World

Living a Life of Christmas Joy

Joy

- Theology of Joy

Joy

- Theology of Joy
 - Reminder of God's delight, joy, pleasure

Joy

- Theology of Joy
 - Reminder of God's delight, joy, pleasure not just in general, but in us

Joy

- We are not convinced that God rejoices, or if he does, we are sure we do not contribute to his joy.

Joy

- This means that we have

Joy

- This means that we have
 - a skewed understanding of God
 - a skewed view of ourselves.

Imago Dei

- Differing views

Imago Dei

- Differing views
 - Substantive view
 - Relational/Social view
 - Functional view

Joy

- This means that we have
 - a skewed understanding of God
 - a skewed view of ourselves.

Imago Dei

- Might our ability to correctly perceive or assess value be broken?

C. S. Lewis

Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.

C. S. Lewis

We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

(The Weight of Glory)

Joy of the Call

What is “the Call?”

What is “the Call?”

- Every Christian is called by God to Christ

What is “the Call?”

- Every Christian is called by God to Christ
- This the most important “Call?”

What is “the Call?”

To love the Lord, our God with all of our
heart, soul, mind, and strength

To love our neighbor as ourselves.

What is “the Call?”

To want the King and his kingdom
more than anything.

The Price is Right

The Price is Right

- All of our lives is living out the value we put on things/people/actions.
- We are always saying with our choices “this is more valuable than that.”

What is the price/cost of the Call?

Matt. 13

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Matt. 13

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

Matt. 13

⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

What is the price/cost of the Call?

Matt. 13

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What is the price/cost of the Call?

What is the price/cost of the Call?

- Everything

What is the price/cost of the Call?

- Everything
- To get what he wanted, he had to say “yes” to more than he wanted.

Matt. 13

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

What is the value/worth of the Call?

Matt. 13

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

What is the value/worth of the Call?

EVERYTHING!

Timing of Joy

Timing of Joy

- We will only ultimately know if we made the right deal in the future, when the kingdom is experienced fully.

Timing of Joy

- But like the man, we can know joy in seasons of letting go and loss because of the value of what will be obtained later.

Timing of Joy

- But like the man, we can know joy in seasons of letting go and loss because of the value of what will be obtained later.
- Is there anything of real value that is quick, easy and convenient?

What should we do?

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- Remember, our choices are always revealing that we think “this is more valuable than that.”

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- Remember, our choices are always revealing that we think “this is more valuable than that.”
- Pray

What should we do?


- Pray
 - Train me to live out my call.
 - Train me to value what you value.
 - Correct me when I confuse the price tags.
 - Train me to be strong so that I can endure.

What should we do?

- Remember, our choices are always revealing that we think “this is more valuable than that.”
- Pray
- Live in and grow in intimacy with the King

What should we do?

- Remember, our choices are always revealing that we think “this is more valuable than that.”
- Pray
- Live in and grow in intimacy with the King
- Live in the reality of the kingdom
until all people know the Kingdom’s reality.



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