

Discussion Guide for Joy in Christ's Presence: Part 2

1. Briefly review the sermon outline

What parts of Sunday's lesson did you find helpful, enlightening, unclear or troubling?

2. Truth: Christ's presence and promises have the power to provide us with unstoppable joy. We defined "joy" as "Stable hope & optimism rooted in God's presence and promises."

- What do you think of the definition of joy above?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

- How is each person of the Trinity involved in keeping God's promises?

- What does this Trinitarian involvement assure us?

- Which future promises of God encourage you or give you joy the most?

- Which "today" promises of God encourage you or give you joy the most?

Read Matthew 5:10-12

- What is the Christian experience described in this passage?

- Is this experience common to us? Why or why not?

- How does the ability to rejoice intersect with God's presence or promises in this passage?

- Share a time that you felt reviled, persecuted, defamed, or falsely accused because of your faith?

- How do Jesus' words encourage you when you are misrepresented or mistreated?

Read Romans 5:1-5

- How does our ability to rejoice intersect with God's presence or promises in this passage?

- Share a time that you felt beat down by trials but God's presence or promises gave you hope and optimism?

- How do Paul's words encourage you as you are persevering through difficulty?