

“The Joy of Our Salvation”
 John 15:11; Romans 4:1-8; Romans 5:1-12

“If we were not allowed to speak of what we value and celebrate what we love and praise what we admire, our joy would not be full.” (John Piper)

- What is Christian joy (contentment)? (Psalm 90:14)
 - Christian joy (contentment) is willful obedience (Philippians 4:9), emotional commitment (Philippians 4:6-7), and a growing knowledge of Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:8 & 11).
- What is the basis of my Christian joy (contentment)?
 - Jesus Christ and His work is the basis of my joy (Philippians 4:13). Everything I need to glorify God and be full of joy (content) is found in the riches of Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:19).
- What are specific things inside of the work of Christ (Hebrews 7:25) that should bring me joy (contentment)?
 - I should be full of joy because ALL my lawless deeds are forgiven, ALL my sins are covered, and NONE of my sins will be counted against me (Romans 4:7-8).
 - I should be full of joy because God counts righteousness apart from works. I don't get what I deserve. I receive as a gift the grace and mercy of God (Romans 4:3-6; Romans 5:6-7).
 - I should be full of joy because I'm justified, I'm at peace with God, I'm saved by faith, and I will be glorified, namely, all of my spiritual and physical defects removed by the power of Christ! (Romans 5:1-2 & 8-10).
 - I should be full of joy because godly suffering produces holiness. I should be full of joy because godly suffering strengthens my faith. I should be full of joy because the power of God is at work in my life through the Holy Spirit (Romans 4:20-21; Romans 5:3-5).
 - I should be full of joy because I have access to God. I have been reconciled to God. I get to know and enjoy God by the private and public means of grace (Romans 5:9-11).

◆ Private (Hebrews 12:1-3):

Prayer
 Scripture
 Meditation
 Self-examination
 Service

◆ Public:

Corporate Prayer
 Preaching/Proclaiming
 Corporate praise
 Lord's Supper
 Service

◆ Stewardship:

The company we keep
 Marriage
 Parenting
 Vocation
 Hobbies
 Resources: Time & Money

JC Ryle on pursuing holiness and contentment in Christ: “Never stop! Go forward! Go on! You can never have too much humility, too much faith in Christ, too much holiness, too much spirituality of mind, too much charity, too much zeal in doing good to others. Whatever the world or nominal Christians may please to say, we may be sure there is no danger of any of us becoming too good or being too extreme in serving Christ. At our very best we are far worse than we ought to be. There will always be room for improvement in us. Let us look to Christ for our standard. This is the pursuit of holiness and joy.”

Worship: Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus (Various Artists) Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery (Matt Boswell)
 In Tenderness (The Sing Team) **Closing Song:** There Is A Fountain (Citizens)