

ENJOY THE JOY

It is a joyful time of year. Andy Williams would suggest it's the most wonderful time of the year. The decorations shine, and people's spirits bubble with gladness. In a few days, people will celebrate the arrival of the Messiah and all that it means for humanity.

Luke 2:10

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

There is much to celebrate; in fact, this celebration isn't relegated to the twelfth month of the calendar or even Q4, as the retailers would have us believe. Joy is something that comes from knowing God. It is a command and a natural response of creation to whom the Lord is.

Psalm 66:1

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

Moreover, it is a fruit of His presence (Ps. 21:6) and the Holy Spirit within us.

Galatians 5:21-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

In the Old Testament, we see a repeated charge to shout (Ps. 32:11, 33:1) and sing (Ps. 5:11) the goodness of God. Joy has a way of causing us to do this. It is so powerful that it made John the Baptist leap while in his mother's womb (Luke 1:44). But it doesn't stop there. Jesus says that joy should cause us to do even more. According to our Lord, joy makes man want to give up everything else to take hold of that wonderful place where Jesus rules, the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 13:44

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Joy is the ethos of his people there.

Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

But in a broken world, sometimes we lose it. As a result, Paul prays for the church in Rome that God help them find it again and thrive in it.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Enjoy the joy!

Ryan