

1 Pet. 1:8-9: Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him & rejoice with joy that is inexpressible & filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. [**1 Pet. 1:7:** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.]

Intro: Last Sunday, we considered: Christians suffer trials in this world. God sends you trials to test your faith & these trials are for your good: to make you more like Jesus, to purify faith, & to draw you closer to God. & your proven faith will be rewarded & praised by God as you rejoice in Him forever!

Hymn: Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

You love Jesus, you believe in Jesus, you rejoice in Jesus, & you endure to the end because of Jesus!

1. You Love Jesus Christ

1 Pet. 1:8: Though you have not seen him, you love him.

a. You have not seen Him: These Christians Peter wrote to had not seen Jesus. Peter had seen Him! John had seen Him: **1 Jn. 1:1:** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon & have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life

Have you ever loved someone you've never seen or met? Sports star; movie star; singer; preacher; I loved John Piper in college. How much more Jesus! **Do you love Jesus Christ?**

b. You love Him: Though you don't see Jesus, you love Him! These Christians loved Jesus! They loved Who He is: the God-Man; the Messiah; the Son of God. They loved what He's done: His perfect life; His miracles; His preaching; His love; His death & resurrection & ascension. They loved His Word & commandments. Our love expresses itself in delight & affection; obedience; time (Word, prayer, church); money; singing; helping others know Him & follow Him. Love shows itself in your willingness to suffer for Jesus. (The Apostles; Martyrs: Hugh Latimer & Nicholas Ridley: "I thank God most heartily that he hath prolonged my life to this end that I may in this case glorify God by this kind of death." "Be of good cheer, Master Ridley, play the man, we shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England, as I trust it shall never be put out.")

Love in everyday life: resisting sin; loving family, friends, neighbors; church; spiritual disciplines

Do you love Jesus Christ? (Membership story; Peter himself – Do you love Me?) **GOSPEL!**

- **Jn. 14:23:** If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, & my Father will love him, & we will come to him & make our home with him.

- **1 Cor. 16:22:** If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!

- **Matt. 22:36-38:** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" & he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. **Jesus is God!**"

- **Gen. 29:20:** So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, & they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

- **J. C. Ryle:** Of all the things that will surprise us in the resurrection morning, this, I believe, will surprise us most: that we did not love Christ more before we died.

2. You Believe In Jesus Christ

1 Pet. 1:8: Though you do not now see him, you believe in him

Heb. 11:1: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

a. Though you don't see Jesus, you believe in Him: John 3:16; Acts 16:31; **[Do you believe?]**

b. Justification is by faith alone: WCF Chap. 11 Of Justification: 1) Those whom God effectually calls he also freely justifies; not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, & by accounting & accepting their persons as righteous: not for anything wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ's sake alone; nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness; but by imputing the obedience & satisfaction of Christ unto them, they receiving & resting on him & his righteousness by faith; which faith they have not of themselves, it is the gift of God.

- 2) Faith, thus receiving & resting on Christ & his righteousness, is the alone instrument of justification; yet is it not alone in the person justified, but is ever accompanied with all other saving graces, & is no dead faith, but worketh by love.

c. Thomas didn't see, so he didn't believe: Jn. 20:24-29: Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, & place my finger into the mark of the nails, & place my hand into his side, I will never believe." ²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, & Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came & stood among them & said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, & see my hands; & put out your hand, & place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen & yet have believed."

d. The Gospels are better than being there: John Piper: If you read the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John, with openness to Christ, you can see the true glory of Christ far more clearly than most of the people who knew him on earth could see him – Nicodemus, the Syrophenician woman, the Centurion, the widow of Nain, Zacchaeus, the thief on the cross, the thronging crowds. They saw a snatch here & a snatch there. But in the gospels you get four complementary portraits of Christ inspired by God & covering the whole range of his teaching & his ministry. The gospels are better than being there. You are taken into the inner circle of the apostolic band where you never could have gone. You go with him through Gethsemane & the trial & the crucifixion & the resurrection & the meetings after the resurrection. You hear whole sermons & long discourses – not in isolated snatches on hillsides but in rich God-inspired contexts that take you deeper than

you ever could have gone as a perplexed peasant in Galilee. You see the whole range of his character & power which nobody on earth saw as fully as you can now see in the gospels: you see his freedom from anxiety with no place to lay his head, his courage in the face of opposition, his unanswerable wisdom, his honoring women, his tenderness with children, his compassion toward lepers, his meekness in suffering, his patience with Peter, his tears over Jerusalem, his blessing those who cursed him, his heart for the nations, his love for the glory of God, his simplicity & devotion, his power to still storms & heal the sick & multiply bread & cast out demons.

You love Jesus, you believe in Jesus, you rejoice in Jesus, & you endure to the end because of Jesus!

3. You Rejoice In Jesus Christ

1 Pet. 1:8: Though you do not now see him, you believe in him & rejoice with joy that is inexpressible & filled with glory

a. These believers rejoice: Because these believers love Jesus & because they believe in Jesus & because of all the other privileges they have that we've seen in this letter so far (chosen, sanctified, cleansed, obedient, born again, have a living hope, have an amazing inheritance kept for you, & you are guarded by God!) – they rejoice with joy that is inexpressible & filled with glory!

These believers rejoice with a joy that is so great it's beyond words of expression! & it's filled with glory! [**Glory: Piper:** the radiance of his holiness, the radiance of his manifold, infinitely worthy & valuable perfections.] Glory from God that they receive, share, & give: give God all the glory! - **Mark Dunn & Wayne Grudem:** . . . in the earlier verse Peter spoke of strong rejoicing in future hope, here he says that our personal, daily fellowship with Jesus Christ Himself is cause for even greater rejoicing. The word translated inexpressible describes a joy so profound as to be beyond the power of words to express. This joy is also described by Peter as being full of glory, which indicates the presence of God Himself. Thus this joy results from being in the presence of God Himself, & joy that even now partakes of the character of heaven. It is the joy of heaven before heaven, experienced now in fellowship with the unseen Christ. **[Do you have joy in Jesus?]**

b. Joy is important in the Christian life: Deut. 16:11: you shall rejoice before the LORD your God - **Ps. 2:11:** Serve the LORD with fear, & rejoice with trembling.

- **Jeremy Taylor:** God threatens terrible things if we will not be happy: **Deut. 28:47-48:** Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness & gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger & thirst, in nakedness, & lacking everything. & he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

- **Edward Reynolds:** Of all affections joy is the most communicative. It leaps out into the eyes, the feet, the tongue, stays not in one private bosom, but as it is able, sheds itself abroad into the bosoms of many others.

- **1 Jn. 1:4:** we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Mark Dever: Mary & the wise men rejoice; Jesus rejoiced; Jesus taught His disciples to rejoice

when they were persecuted; People rejoice when they are converted like the Philippian jailer in Acts 16; When John is given a vision in Revelation of the marriage supper of the Lamb, there's much rejoicing; Christianity is a religion with a lot of rejoicing in it; There's joy in the Gospels with Zechariah hears about his son, John the Baptist's birth; there's the disciples rejoicing when the demons are subject to them. Jesus teaches His disciples how there is joy in heaven when one sinner repents. Jesus told His disciples that their joy would be complete upon His resurrection. & there are so many references in Paul's ministry to joy: joy in encouraging news about the Corinthian church; or about Titus; or because of the Philippians & how they received Epaphroditus; Paul could even refer to certain churches as "his joy" because he took so much joy in them . . . Love brings joy. John writes & visits to complete his joy. **3 Jn. 4:** I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth; Five Considerations About Joy In The Bible:

1) Joy is important: 2nd fruit of the Spirit listed in Gal. 5: "love, joy"

- **Rom. 14:17:** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating & drinking but of righteousness & peace & joy in the Holy Spirit.

2) Joy is itself a goal: **Jn. 15:11:** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, & that your joy may be full.

- **2 Cor. 1:24:** Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

- **Phil. 1:25:** I will remain & continue with you all, for your progress & joy in the faith

3) Not all joy is right: **Jas. 4:9:** Be wretched & mourn & weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning & your joy to gloom.

- **Matt. 13:20-21:** As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word & immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, & when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

4) Christians can have real joy, even in trials: **Acts 13:** Paul & Barnabas abused in Antioch – they went out rejoicing; **2 Cor. 7:4:** In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy; Macedonians in 2 Cor. 8; Thessalonians: **1 Thess. 1:6:** you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit

5) The prospect of real future joy can lead to present obedience: **Matt. 13:44:** The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found & covered up. Then in his joy he goes & sells all that he has & buys that field.

- **Heb. 10:34:** For you had compassion on those in prison, & you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession & an abiding one.

4. You Will Endure To The End Because Of Jesus Christ

1 Pet. 1:8-9: Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him & rejoice with joy that is inexpressible & filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

a. You will obtain the outcome of your faith: These believers will inherit salvation! God will keep you, & you will keep believing, repenting, & clinging to Jesus Christ! He died for you! He rose for you! He ascended! He intercedes for You! He will never let you go! He will hold you fast!

b. The outcome of your faith is the salvation of your souls: What is the salvation of your souls? Remember “salvation” can be used in three different ways in the Bible: 1) Justification; 2) Sanctification; 3) Glorification. You will be glorified & perfected forever! & this too brings great joy! Your love for & faith in Jesus Christ give you an unstoppable joy that leads to salvation – no matter what suffering or trials you may face!

- **Gen. 29:20:** So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, & they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

c. Jesus endured the greatest suffering ever for the joy that was set before Him:

- **Heb. 12:1-3:** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, & sin which clings so closely, & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder & perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, & is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. [**Hymn 190:** My Jesus, I Love Thee!]

1 Pet. 1:8-9: Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him & rejoice with joy that is inexpressible & filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Someday you will see Him! 1 Jn. 3:2: Beloved, we are God's children now, & what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

William Gurnall: Fall on, & the city is your own, as now it is ours, who for a few days' conflict are now crowned with heaven's glory, one moment's enjoyment of which hath dried up all our tears, healed all our wounds, & made us forget the sharpness of the fight, with the joy of our present victory.

- **Hymn:** Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee; nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

- **Jesus:** Farther, my God, from Thee, farther from Thee! It was the cursed cross that lowered Me,
Still all my cries would be, farther, my God, from Thee; farther, my God, from Thee, farther from Thee!

You love Jesus, you believe in Jesus, you rejoice in Jesus, & you endure to the end because of Jesus!

Christ Jesus' Life Was Out Of Sight
There's No One Like Him – Praise Ignite
He's Inexpressible Delight
He's Filled With Joy – Glory Bright
He Is The God-Man Clothed In Might
And Though He's Always Done What's Right
He'd Die – Bear All God's Fury Fright
God's Wrath And Curse And Judgment Night

But Then He Rose Alive To Right
All That's Wrong And Sad And Blight
Though We Don't See – We Love Him Quite
We Believe, Though Not Through Sight
Beyond Our Words He's Joy – Delight
He's Our Salvation, Hope, And Light
Our King And All Who's Out Of Sight!