

Labor Day Conference 2010

Subject: Christ, Christ, Christ

Message 5: The Corporate Joy and Rejoicing among Christ, His Servants, the Local Churches and the Individual Saints

- I. Joyfulness is one of the divine attributes enjoyed by those who have Christ, His servants, and with the other saints in the church life.
- II. God's economy is realized in joy and rejoicing.
 - A. During creation, Christ was active as the master workman and was delighted to abide among men (Prov. 8:30-31).

"Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world; and my delight was with the sons of men."
 - B. After man fell, Jesus came and carried-out His earthly ministry. He exulted (was extremely joyful) in the Holy Spirit and declared His Father as Lord of heaven and earth (Lk. 10:21).

"In that hour He exulted in the Holy Spirit and said, I extol You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth," (RcV)
 - C. Before the Lord fully fulfilled His earthly ministry, He encouraged the saints by saying, "you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy... Therefore you now have sorrow, but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you." (Jn. 16:20-21)
 - D. After resurrection, Peter declared, "Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence." (Acts 2:27-28)
 - E. When the first testimony, the church in Jerusalem, was raised up, the saints "day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they partook of their food with exultation (extreme joy) and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added together day by day those who were being saved." (Act. 2:46)
- III. The practical testimony of joy and rejoicing experienced by the apostle Paul and the saints in the church in Philippi.
 - A. The servant's proper relationship with the Lord and a burden for the Lord's testimony is the root of joyfulness (Phil. 1:4-5).

"Always in my every petition on behalf of you all, making my petition with joy, for your fellowship unto the furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now." (RcV)
 - B. The servants' joyfulness come from the preaching of the gospel and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ through the saints' petition (1:18-19)

"What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truthfulness, Christ is announced; and in this I rejoice; yes, and I will rejoice; for I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,"
 - C. The saints' growth and progress in faith through the labor of the Lord's servants produces joy (1:25).

"I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of the faith,"
 - D. The oneness of the saints produces full joy in the Lord's servants (2:2).

"Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing," (RcV)
 - E. The church's shining testimony as a luminary allows the servants of the Lord to joyfully offer themselves upon the sacrifice and service of their faith, producing joy and rejoicing among them all (2:15, 17).

"in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world. But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all." (RcV)

- F. The mutual care of a servant by other servants and the churches produces all joy (2:28-29).
 "I have sent him therefore the more eagerly, so that when you see him again, you may rejoice and I may be less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all joy, and hold such in honor," (RcV)
- G. The church's spiritual discernment concerning the dogs, the evil workers, and the mutilations (concision) allows them to rejoice in the Lord (3:1-2).
 "my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, for me it is not irksome, but for you it is safe. Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the concision." (RcV)
- H. The church's firm standing in the Lord according to the teaching of the Lord's servants becomes the joy of His servants (4:1).
 "my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, in the same way stand firm in the Lord, beloved." (RcV)
- I. The saints' forbearance and their enjoyment of the Lord's presence produce joy and rejoicing both in the Lord's presence and in His coming (4:5).
 "Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near." (RcV)
- J. When the churches willingly stand with the Lord's servants financially, it causes the servants to rejoice greatly and the saints to gain the fruit (of joy, etc.) (4:10, 17).
 "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because now at length you have caused your thinking for me to blossom anew; for which matter you had indeed taken thought, but lacked opportunity... Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit which increases to your account."
- K. The abundant joy can cause the churches to stand together financially, as when the churches in Macedonia became the encouragement for the churches in Achaia for the church in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:1-2, 9:2; Rom. 15:25-26).
 "Furthermore we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in much proving of affliction the abundance of their joy and the depth of their poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality;... now I am going to Jerusalem, ministering to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem." (RcV)