



Pray

How does this biblical foundation of Hope inspire you to pray? Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



Surprised by Joy | 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Study Guide 3 for Advent Sermon on 12/20/2020



Introduction

Have you experienced true joy? What does it feel like? What does it look like? Joy that is true and joy that is life-changing comes because of knowing Jesus Christ.

“**JOY** has dawned upon the world, Promised from creation—
God’s salvation now unfurled, Hope for ev’ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, Not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love—**Jesus** born of Mary.” – Joy Has Dawned

As we have gone through Advent, we have looked at the themes of hope, peace, and now: joy. Joy comes now in response to the mercy we have been shown and as a result leads to praise. C.S. Lewis once said, “*Praise is the mode of love which always has some element of joy in it.*”



Overview

Context: “Joy” is one of those biblical themes that Christians should relish in more. Joy is linked to everyday trials (James 1:2), associated with our hope (Romans 12:12), and is connected to praise as believers see the grace and mercy shown to them (1 Tim. 1:12-17).

Structure:

- I. The work of Christ (1 Timothy 1:15a)
- II. Paul's sin (1 Timothy 1:15b)
- III. Mercy given (1 Timothy 1:16)
- IV. Overflowing of praise to God (1 Timothy 1:17)

**Engage****Praising God for Salvation, Praising God for his Mission
(1 Timothy 1:15-17)**

1. The gospel is explicit and implicit in the first chapter of 1 Timothy. How would you state the gospel in one sentence?
2. After reading verse 15, what is the value in remembering what you were before you were saved? Conversely, what is the danger in not realizing the seriousness of your previous sinful state?
3. What role did God's grace play in your salvation and what role did you play? Do your answers to these two questions correspond to biblical descriptions of salvation?
4. Are you ever stirred or even overwhelmed by thoughts of God's grace in your life? What types of study, meditation, or worship produce the greatest response in you?
5. What is the result of God's mercy in our lives (verse 16)? How does God's mercy in your life impact others?
6. In verse 17, we see Paul describe a few attributes of God. What are some other attributes that you can think of?
7. How do God's attributes differ from who we are?
8. Paul's description of God in verse 17 tells us several things about the glory of God. God is eternal and immortal. He never grows tired or weary. He never changes. How do these truths about God bring us comfort?
9. When you think of who God is and what he has done for you, how should you respond?

Tying It Together

10. Paul who was the church's nemesis became the church's ardent endorser. Christ can change anyone at any time. How does this transformation in Paul's life influence the church's mission?