

The Painful Joy of God's Purposes in the Christian's Life (1 Peter 1:6,7)

- OT: delight yourself in Lord (Ps 37) serve Him with gladness (Ps 100)
- NT: rejoice, leap for joy – great is your reward in heaven (Luke 6:23)
- “I have spoken to you that your joy may be full” (John 15: 11)
- “Rejoice in the Lord” Phil 4:4 – “the fruit of the Spirit is Joy” Gal 5
- Christianity: a life of tremendous joy but that joy is accompanied by grief

I. Two Reasons Why Christians Can Be Joyful

1. The Promise of a glorious future: “In this you greatly rejoice” in what?

v.3 “begotten again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus”

v.4 “inheritance incorruptible & undefiled preserved in heaven for you”

v.5 “kept by power of God through faith for salvation, ready to be revealed”

- In this ‘We greatly rejoice’ God keeps us for it & God keeps it for us

2. God's sovereign purpose in our Grief and Distress

- Peter says: trials are used by God to perfect us for the joy of salvation

II. God's Divine Purpose in our Grief and Distress

- V.6 “If needs be” v.7 “so that” – grief & distress happens if God wills it

III. Then Does God Will Our Suffering and Distress?

- Answer: yes & no. God doesn't will us to sin, but He controls all things

5 Important Elements of God's Purpose in Our Grief or Distresses

1. Various or Varied Trials
2. Our Grief is Brief
3. They are indeed Grievous Trials
4. Like Refining Fire
5. Our Faith Receiving Praise, Honor & Glory,