

Sermon: Joy: Christ's Joy Made Full in Christians  
Scripture: John 17:1-19 (text vs. 13)

Introduction: Not optional for Christians (Rom. 15:13; Phil. 4:4; I Thess. 5:16)

I. Defining Christ's joy for Christians:

- A. Not defined by world
- B. Not absence of trouble (17:14)
- C. Is the peace, contentment, happiness which comes from understanding and living all of life according to the wisdom of God (Rom. 8:28; I Peter 1:6; James 1:2,3; Acts 5:41; II Cor. 6:10).

II. The value of possessing Christ's joy for Christians:

- A. It honors the Lord.
- B. It empowers Christians (Neh. 8:10; Hab. 3:18; Ps. 51:12,13; II Cor. 5:14).
- C. It beats being a fool and without His joy.

III. Cultivation and increase of Christ's joy for Christians. Must use the means God provides, not automatic.

- A. Scripture (Ps. 19:7,8)
- B. Meditation (Luke 6:22,23; Is. 40:27,28; Ps. 63:6,7)
- C. Prayer (Ps. 16:11)
- D. Worship and sacraments
- E. Obedience (John 15:10,11)

IV. Interruption and hindrance of Christ's joy for Christians:

- A. Our sin, disobedience (Ps. 51:12a; Eph. 4:30a; James 4:9)
- B. Preoccupation with the world and self
  - 1. World's joy sought
  - 2. Dictate to Lord what He must do
  - 3. Refuse to invest time to seek the Lord
  - 4. Living life as if "It's all about me!"