

Because He Lives
John 1.10-14
December 16th, 2018

Introduction

- What gives you joy?
- David's cry in Psalm 51 == restore unto me the joy of thy _____
- Jesus - who for the _____ set before him was able to endure the cross (Hebrews 12.2)

Main Points: Our hearts can be filled with joy with the knowledge that...

1. God's faithfulness doesn't depend on us

- God made the world and has _____ been here
- The world was made through him - the world owes its very _____ - to him
- "Know" refers to a _____ relationship with God
- Romans 5.6-11; 1John 4.19; Lamentations 3.22-24; Psalm 36.5
- We can _____ joy in knowing that even when we were faithless and unfaithful to God, he has not and will not ever give up on us

2. God adopted us as his children

- children of God: in the OT of "the people of Israel" as especially dear to God, in the NT, in Paul's writings, all who are led by the Spirit of God and thus closely _____ to God (Blue Letter Bible)
- the children are those who _____, but the action of us becoming the children of God is still the work of God

- "The end of the story is not the tragedy of rejection, but the grace of _____." - Leon Morris
 - 2Peter 1.4; 1John 3.2
 - When we _____ who we are in Christ, and the incredible blessings and promises that pertain to the children of God, the only reaction can be joy

3. God wants us to know him

- The Word became flesh - a response to _____
- Dwelt among us is _____ language; Jesus set up his _____ next to ours
- "grace" = that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech
- _____ is a major theme in the Gospel of John. It can be argued that no joy is derived from people who broker deceit; for the Father of Lies is Satan himself
- Moses could not behold the glory of God, but in Christ that glory is _____

Conclusion

- God is _____ even when we're not
- God has _____ us, elevating us to a unique and glorious position
- God has opened our eyes so that we might see him in glorious splendor and be in a loving _____ with him; father and child.
- The _____, Immanuel, Christ with us is the source of our joy
- Its why we can _____ anxiety and fear, why we can _____ each new day.