

## Christians' Joy

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by Wayne Goff

It is an interesting study to note what gave "joy" to those in the Bible. The word appears sixty-two times in the New Testament, so we could say indeed that it is a book of happiness.

The greatest "**joy**" will be that of entering into heaven (Matt. 25:21, 23). We all desire to enter into heaven, and to hear the words "*Well done, good and faithful servant...*" will create an eternal happiness that is beyond comprehension!

John added to this by saying, "*I have no greater **joy** than to hear that my children walk in truth*" (3 Jn. 4). This is true whether or not his children were physical or spiritual. Assisting others in obeying the Gospel and knowing that they are still faithfully serving the Lord gives one great joy.

Paul added to this with these words: "*For what is our hope, or **joy**, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy*" (1 Thess. 2:19-20).

Paul also referred to the church in Philippi as "*my joy and crown*" (Phil. 4:1). Paul converted Lydia and the Jailer there, and certainly those were two of his most ardent supporters in the gospel.

There will be tremendous joy at the revelation of the glory of Jesus Christ at the end of time (1 Pet. 4:13; Jude 24). He is the center and circumference of our spiritual universe, and to be able to see Him in all His radiant glory at the end of time will be awesome!

If you are looking forward to the Final Day being a day of joy, then be sure you are serving Him faithfully every day of your lives. "*Now may the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*" (Rom. 15:13). Indeed, there is no greater "joy and peace" than in believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior, our Lord, and our Best Friend! Let us be sure, like the great apostle Paul, that we "*finish (our) race with joy*" (Acts 20:24)!

302001