



On the Subject of Joy

This passage illustrates the kind of
joy presented in Psalms

Psalms 13

This joy reserved for certain people

- ◆ “Those whose God is the LORD!” (33:12; 144:15).
- ◆ Those who have Him as their help and hope (146:5).
- ◆ Those who seek Him and love His salvation (70:4).
- ◆ Those who are righteous (68:1–3; 32:11).
- ◆ Those who support His righteous cause (35:27).
- ◆ Those who fear the LORD, walk in His ways (128:1).

This joy can be lost unless we...

❖ “Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him” (Psalms 2:11–12).

Joy not the only emotion in Psalms

- ◇ We also find many expressions of sorrow, grief, anxiety, depression, despair—even from God's people.
- ◇ Psalms 88 is just one example.
- ◇ God's people suffer from many of the same sorrows and heartaches others experience.

Yet I can still rejoice...

- ◆ In my Maker, my King (149:2).
- ◆ In His righteous reign over all nations (67:3–4).
- ◆ In every opportunity to worship Him (42:4; 122:1).
- ◆ Find pleasure in doing His pleasure (103:21; 119:35).
- ◆ And joy in His forgiveness when I don't (51:7–8, 12).
- ◆ Provisions for my eternal salvation and joy (16:9–11).

Summing it up

- ◇ “I am abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give me drink from the river of Your pleasures” (36:8).
- ◇ “You will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy...you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you” (John 16:20, 22).