

Jars of Joy

2 Corinthians 1:12 – 2:2

10/11/2020

The Christian life involves suffering, but an essential element in the Christian experience is joy.

“The trouble with many men is that they have got just enough religion to make them miserable. If there is not joy in religion, you’ve got a leak in your religion.” (Billy Sunday)

“Religion can be a horrible thing. Some of the most unhappy people I know are religious. They attend Church services that are akin to cheerless funerals for the dead.”

Hebrew – “to leap or spin around with pleasure”

Greek – “gladness, bless and celebration”

Joy Busters: Unreasonable expectations, Unresolved conflict, Unconfessed sin

David before and after - 2 Samuel 6:12-19; 2 Samuel 11; Psalm 32:1-5; Psalm 51:1-12

An essential element in the Christian experience is joy but as Jars of Clay we are fragile and tend to leak.

If we tap into a continuous source of joy, we will continually overflow with joy no matter how leaky our Jar of Clay tends to be.

- I. Where there is a clean conscience there is joy (1:12)
 - A. Simplicity – opposite of duplicity (simplex or duplex radios)
 - B. Sincerity
 - C. Serenity
- II. Where there is a climate of trust there is joy (1:13-17)
 - A. Openness
 - B. Honesty
- III. Where there is a calming confidence there is joy (1:18-22)
 - A. The Father’s faithfulness
 - B. The Spirit’s sealing
- IV. Where there is a commitment to joy there is joy (1:23 - 2:2)
 - A. We tend to be committed to our own joy
 - B. We need to be committed to other’s joy

So What?

- ❖ A joy filled life is never a once and done proposition
- ❖ A joyless life is the result of being Jars of Clay that leak
- ❖ A joyless life can become a joy filled to overflowing life