

INTRODUCTION

1. Phil 4:4 Command to *rejoice!* Emotional obedience?

1st: Our Joy Is Not Determined By Our Experience of Life in this Age

1. Isn't joy made by something that happens to me?
2. Xn joy is not oblivious to circumstances.
 - i. Paul's painful circumstance.
 - ii. Lk 6:20-22 hard circumstance, yet *blessed* & commanded to rejoice - v23
 - a. circumstance not change - our perspective changes: see future reward & past models .
 - b. our circumstance is our relationship to Christ & His kingdom.
3. *Contentment*, like *joy*, is by Christ's strength in any circumstance - Phil 4:10-13

2nd: We Are To Rejoice in the Lord - Phil 4:4

1. Recall what gave Paul joy [last study]. What is external to us that should affect our joy such that we can be commanded to rejoice?
2. *always* - at all times & most assuredly. Ps 34:1.
3. *again I will say - rejoice* is a plural verb. Rejoice in the Lord, together.

Applic #1: Let Us Ask Christ to Increase Our Joy & Enable Us to Be Joyful

1. Fix eyes of faith on Jesus. Ask for HS to increase your joy *in the Lord*.
2. Taste & drink the transcendent love of Christ & weeds that threaten to choke joy will shrivel. Ps 16:11 *You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*