



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Sermon Series

17 DECEMBER 2023

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

LUKE 2:9-11

by Henry Wong



the Joy of Christmas



the Hope of Christmas

HISTORICAL CONTEXT -- Isaiah 9

v 1-2 PROCLAMATION

no more gloom...seen a great light...

v 3-5 WHAT GOD WILL DO

increased their joy... they rejoice before you

V 6-7 PROMISE AND EXPECTATION

He will be called...Prince of Peace



REFLECTION

1 - *Creation longs to be free from sin & suffering, death & decay*

2 - God has not forgotten nor forsaken His creation

3 - In Jesus, God renews & restores His creation to fullness

Personal Redemption (GOD LOVES ME!)

Redemption of ALL THINGS (Eden 2.0 ++!)

the Hope of Christmas

RESPONSE

... darkness and despair will not go on forever

... will be filled with glory

... His government and its peace will never end



1. Peace from God – Source
2. Peace with God – Saved
3. Peace with self – Serene
4. Peace with others – Settled
5. Peace of God – Share



the Joy of Christmas

HAPPINESS	JOY
External	Internal
Dependent on circumstances	Independent of circumstances
Emotional response	Act of the will
Having what you want	Wanting what you have
External Euphoria	Inner Contentment
Effect	Cause
Result	Foundation
Inconsistent	Consistent
Temporary	Eternal

the Joy of Christmas

LUKE

Luke 2: 9-11 NLT

⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them.

They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring **GREAT JOY TO ALL PEOPLE.**

¹¹ The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!



the SOURCE

ACTION VERB OF JOY

ENJOY ?

REJOICE

*Rejoice in the Lord always:
and again I say, Rejoice'*

(Philippians 4:4).

**BENEFITS OF REJOICING
IN THE LORD**



1 Peter 1:3 *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with **great expectation**,*

PETER

we have been given new birth into a living hope

*⁴ and we have a **priceless inheritance**—an inheritance that is **kept in heaven for you**, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.*

**we have an inheritance that is pure and undefiled,
beyond the reach of change and decay.
(imperishable, uncorrupted, unfading, and kept in heaven)**

1 Peter 1

⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by His power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

PETER

we are protected by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed

*⁶ So be truly glad. There is **wonderful joy ahead**, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.*

we rejoice in all of this even if we are currently struggling through some trials

1 Peter 1

*⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold— though your **faith is far more precious** than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you **much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.***

as we continue to rejoice through our trials, the genuineness of our faith results in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus

1 Peter 1

*⁸ You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, you **trust** Him; and you **rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.***

we love Him even though we haven't seen Him

We believe in Him and rejoice with inexpressible joy

⁹ The reward for trusting Him will be the salvation of your souls.

we are receiving the reward for trusting Him (*goal of our faith*) – the salvation of our souls

We rejoice in the Lord despite our circumstances because rejoicing in God means that ...

- ***we take delight in Him and **not our circumstances.*****
- ***we are comforted by His name and His presence.***
- ***despite what I am going through, I know that I am loved, cared for, and watched over.***

JOY - long-lasting state of being.

Joy - promised by God ; we should strive towards...

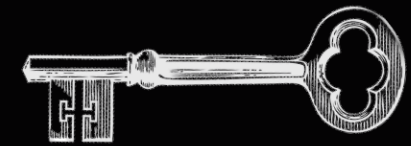
Hebrews 12:2 “For the **joy** set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- **joy** in the **eternal life** that continues even after death.

The constant knowledge of our salvation and God’s love for us will undoubtedly give us joy, even if our present circumstances aren’t ideal or we aren’t presently “happy.”

so much JOY ahead for us.

Romans 14:17-- “**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**”



there will be **joy** in heaven, we can have joy now in our expectant waiting. **God promises us joy when He promises salvation.**

- keep this truth in our minds, **we can find peace and joy even in our earthly suffering.**



the Joy of Christmas

WHY REJOICE ?

1. Christ is Lord

Philippians 2:11 ...every tongue acknowledge JESUS IS LORD

2. Christ has Accomplished Salvation

Philippians 2: 6-8

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage;

⁷ rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

the Joy of Christmas

WHY REJOICE ?

3. Christ gives Us His Righteousness

Philippians 3: 9and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

4. Christ Enters an Amazing Relationship with Us

Philippians 3:10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death....

the Joy of Christmas

WHY REJOICE ?

5. Christ Provides Us with a Great Future

*Phil 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven.
And we eagerly await a Savior from there,
the Lord Jesus Christ...*

*The best is yet to be - **hell-deserving**
but heavenly rejoicing*

the Joy of Christmas

WHY REJOICE ?

6. Christ Brings Us into a Wonderful Family

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!...

7. Christ Takes Away All Our worries

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

the Joy of Christmas

WHY REJOICE ?

8. Christ gives peace

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

9. Christ gives victory

Phil 4:13 I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.

10. Christ supplies all our needs

Phil 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.



“HAPPINESS” and “JOY” interchangeable ?

Happiness and joy seemingly similar, actually quite different. God promises joy, but He never promises us happiness.

Being happy is an EMOTION,

like sadness or jealousy or fear; fleeting. can be happy about something, but not going to be continually happy forever.

Happiness is great -- we can get happiness from a lot of things, even earthly things.



God gives us JOY, ...even if we are not happy.



No need to smile all the time.

We're not promised sunshine and rainbows in this life, but we are **promised salvation and eternal life**, which is **cause for great joy**

even in the midst of pain, fears, doubts and unhappiness.



James 1:2-4 ESV

² **Count it all joy**, my brothers, **when you meet trials** of various kinds,

³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

John 16:22 *So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and **no one will take your joy from you.***

²³ In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you.

*²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that **your joy may be full.***

JOHN

QUOTING OUR LORD...

WHAT KIND OF JOY?

A COMMANDED JOY



Be glad, rejoice,
radiate joy.



A CONSECRATED JOY



FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22



But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:

love, **joy**, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and
self-control.

NLT



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WHAT KIND OF JOY?

A CONSTANT JOY



A CONQUERING JOY



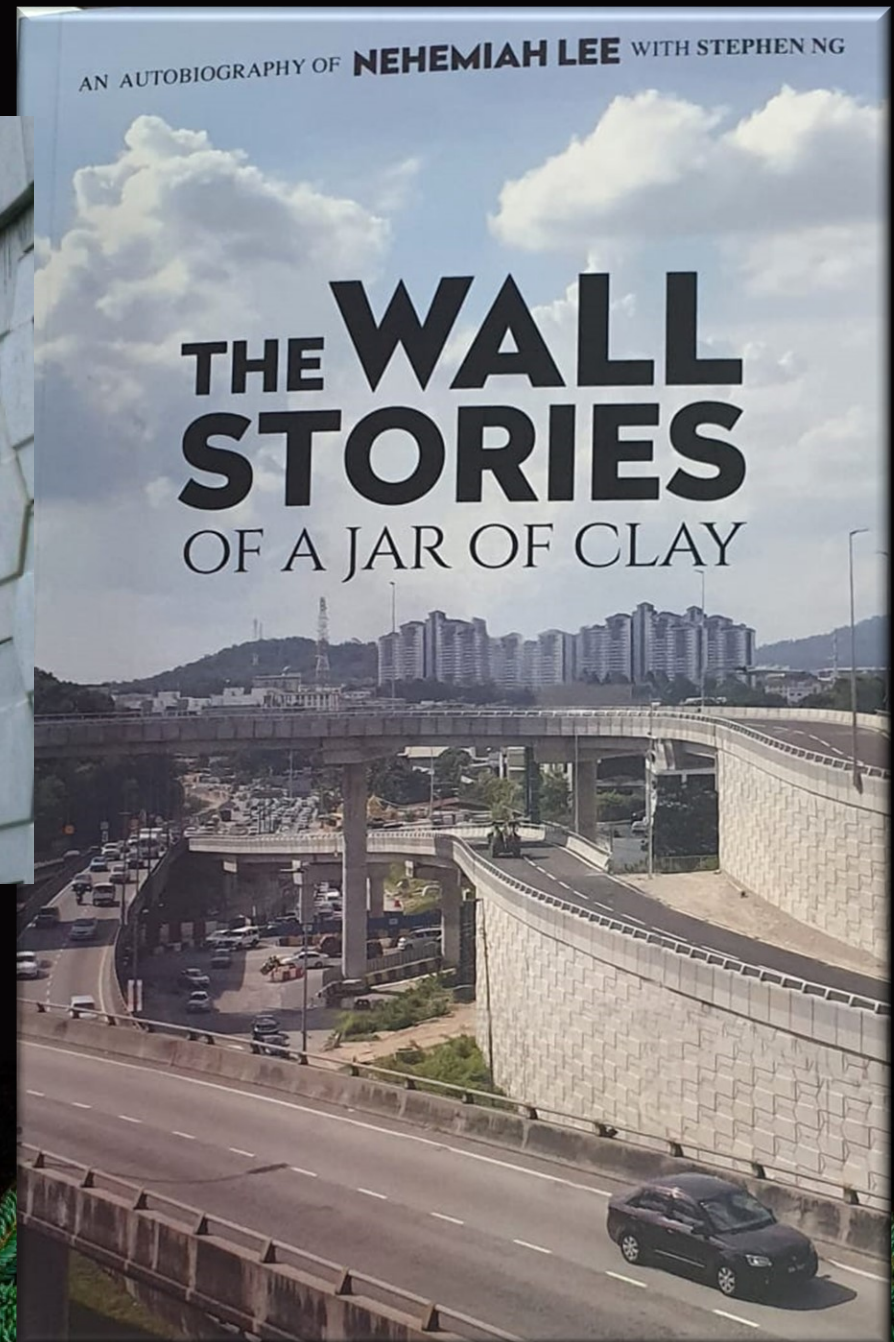
Nehemiah 8:10
“...This day is holy
to our Lord.

Do not grieve, for the
*joy of the Lord is your
strength.*”

NEHEMIAH



Dr Nehemiah Lee



WHAT KIND OF JOY?

Be glad, rejoice,
radiate joy.



WAKE UP THE WORLD!

A COMMANDED JOY

A CONSECRATED JOY

A CONSTANT JOY

A CONQUERING JOY



*Will the world see this constant,
consecrated, conquering joy **in us** today?*

Proverbs 17:22

²² A **joyful** heart is good medicine,
But a broken spirit dries up the bones

NASB

SOLOMON

THE JOY OF THE LORD
is the
GLADNESS OF HEART
that comes from
KNOWING GOD,
ABIDING IN CHRIST and
BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT





A BLESSING FROM JUDE...



JUDE: 24 To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to **present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy** -
25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!
Amen.



A PRAYER FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL.....



Romans 15:5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you **live in complete harmony with each other**, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.

⁶ Then all of you can **join together** with one voice, **giving praise and glory to God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

⁸ Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises He made to their ancestors.

PAUL

⁹ He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for His mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote: “For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to Your name.”

¹⁰ And in another place it is written,

“**Rejoice** with His people, you Gentiles.”

¹¹ And yet again, “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles. Praise Him, all you people of the earth.”

PAUL

¹² And in another place Isaiah said, “The heir to David’s throne will come, and He will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on Him.”

¹³ I pray that **God**, the source of **hope**, will fill you completely with **joy and peace** because you **trust in him**. Then you will **overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.** NLT

THE JOY OF THE LORD
is the
GLADNESS OF HEART
that comes from
KNOWING GOD,
ABIDING IN CHRIST and
BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

