

Joy in Christ

Acts 20:24- But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. (KJV)

The joy in Jesus Christ is unending and constantly renewing as growth takes place. Joy in Jesus Christ is associated with the Cross of Christ and personal repentance. The love for Christ and Christ's love for the person are interwoven in the believer. As the believer matures in Christ, Christ's love continues to be better understood. The believer's love for Christ increases as Christ's love is further appreciated. Attentive believers will experience Christ's love and joy throughout each day.

Romans 5:11- And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. (KJV)

Being able to begin anew in Christ through repentance recreates joy in the believer. Unending growth in Christ and unending joy in Christ are possible throughout life. Joy is possible as long as the believer sustains interest and faith in Jesus Christ. Perils and sin must be cast aside to maintain strong faith and to experience joy. Love for Christ needs to remain paramount throughout life for joy to prevail. The focused believer keeps Christ at the forefront of the heart, mind and soul.

I Thessalonians 2:19- For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? (KJV)

Jesus Christ is the source of joy even in the midst of life's greatest sufferings. The Cross revealed darkness being overcome with the light of the Resurrection. Death did not contain Christ and joy arose from the news of the Empty Tomb. Believers will always find joy in Christ when the search is resolute and serious. Darkness need not control the days of life when the joy of Christ is within reach. Light and joy are companions in the believer's life immersed in the Resurrection.

Hebrews 12:2- Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)

Prayers to the Lord God enable the believer to break through life's darkness. Jesus Christ enables believers to deal successfully with the crosses of daily life. God's Holy Church is the continuous reservoir of Christ's joy for believers. Hunger in the soul for joy is addressed through the nourishment from Christ. Believers need look no further than God's Holy Church to find lasting joy. The joy in Christ exceeds all joy and continues beyond the grave to life eternal.

Holy Great Martyr and Healer Panteliemon. St. Clement of Ohrid. July 27/August 9, 2022. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic