“In This You Greatly Rejoice”

Intro: We live in a society that seeks ____________

A. Webster defines happiness as: 1 “good ____________”.

1. Fortune is defined as: 1 a hypothetical force or personified power that determines events and issues ...

B. The Christian has something much better than happiness, it is called ____________!

1. A joy that is solid, unwavering, fully obtainable, is not based upon esteeming oneself as better than others, but upon esteeming the ____________ of ________, and therefore gains victory over so-called fortune for it does not accept the falsehood of happenstance!

2. As the Bible teaches, the Sovereign ____________ is not hypothetical but and His outcome is ____________!

3. Where there may be absolutely no cause for human happiness, there is full for joy! While the world seeks happiness from good happenstance the ____________ finds joy in never changing truth of their Sovereign ____________.

1 Peter 1:6-9

I. “In this you greatly rejoice ...” We have a ____________ ____________ for great joy!

A. The phrase “In this we greatly rejoice” points us back to the ____________ of the preceding verses.

1. We greatly rejoice because we are elect unto God, strangers in this world and scattered about only according to the ____________ of God by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit that we might obey Jesus Christ and know the full peace and grace of God.

2. We greatly rejoice because the ____________ of our salvation is that we would bless God.

3. We greatly rejoice for the ____________ of our salvation is God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. We greatly rejoice for the ____________ of our salvation is God's great mercy.

5. We greatly rejoice for the ____________ of our salvation is God for He caused us to be born again.

6. We greatly rejoice for the present ____________ our salvation is a living hope.

7. We greatly rejoice for the ____________ of our hope is the resurrection of Christ Jesus.

8. We greatly rejoice for the ____________ of our salvation is our obtaining a heavenly inheritance.

9. We greatly rejoice for the ____________ of our inheritance is found in the fact that it is imperishable, undefiled and will not fade away.

10. We greatly rejoice in the ____________ we have that we will receive this inheritance for it is reserved for us in heaven as we are protected by the power of God through faith to receive the full glories of the salvation He has prepared for us.

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B. In Biblical terms “greatly rejoicing” is a supernatural rejoicing that is ______ this world and defies ______ logic. It refers to a supreme and abundant thrilling ______ and assurance founded upon the _______ of God that wells up inside the Christian as a force that will not be contained!

II. Our great joy _______ the trials of this world!

A. Beloved, rather than being ______ of happenstance we are _______ of God’s good work in all circumstance.

B. The trials of this world are only “for a _______.” Trials are transitory.

C. Transitory trials come “if ______.”

1. Dear church, if we are in the ______ of God, then so too are our ______! And if God is sovereign over all, then He is sovereign ______ ______ and works His good purposes in all! Our trials only come if necessary!

D. Trials come for our good - for “the ______ of our ______.”

1. Trials serve the great _______ of purifying ______ us in the faith by removing the impurities and leaving behind only that which is genuine. (cf. Ro. 5:3-4 & James 1:2-4)

E. Such a faith is “_______ than gold which” “even though tested by fire” “is perishable.”

1. Such a faith ______ “in praise and glory and _______ at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...” (Cf. Rom 2:6 -10; Matt. 25:23; 1 Cor. 3:10-15)

2. We will receive the reward of praise, glory and honor “at the _______ of Jesus _______ ...”

a. As He told the disciples in John 14:3, He will _______ and receive us unto Himself that where He is we may be also! This is why the Lord said, Matt 24:42 & 44, "Therefore ______ on the _____________, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. ... "For this reason you ______ too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”

III. Peter commends the reader for their _______ in and _______ for the Christ they had not and did not see. (cf. 1 Peter 2:20)

A. Such a love and belief “_______ with God” (1 Peter 2:20) and thus, fills us with “_______ inexorable and full of _______.”

B. What favor could be the cause of inexpressible ______ and fulness of _______? The “obtaining as the outcome of [our] faith the _______ of [our] souls.”

1. Beloved He who saved us, and will save us, ______ us!

No matter our plight, no matter our trials, no matter the persecution, we have ______ to greatly rejoice with inexpressible _______ that is full of glory for through it all our God is working His good work perfecting us in our faith causing us to obtain the _______ of our souls. In this we greatly rejoice!