

# JOY IN THE JOURNEY

## LIVING RIGHT IN A WRONG WORLD

**“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace.  
In the world you have tribulation, but take courage;  
I have overcome the world.”**

—John 16:33—

### LESSON FOUR

## **EMBRACING GOD’S PLEASURE**

### **Finding Joy in a Dark World**

#### DISCUSSION QUESTION

**“What is God’s purpose in keeping us in this corrupt, dark world?”**

#### INTRODUCTION

- John 3:16-21
- Matthew 5:14-16
- John 8:12
- John 1:4-5

#### LESSON

##### **Embracing God’s Pleasure: Finding Joy in a Dark World**

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)

1. Obedience for the Christian is paramount and must reflect our reverence for God.
2. God’s purpose for us and God’s work in us bring Him joy.
3. Because our Christianity is public, we must shine brightly in the midst of darkness.
4. We hold life in our hands and thus we are to reveal what we have to those around us.
5. True joy in a dark world is possible as we empty ourselves by reflecting His light and life.

**What is preventing you from revealing the light that Christ put in you?**

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### Philippians 2:12-30

12. So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;
13. for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
14. Do all things without grumbling or disputing;
15. so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,
16. holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.
17. But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.
18. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.
- 19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.
- 20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.
- 21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.
- 22 But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.
- 23 Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me;
- 24 and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.
- 25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need;
- 26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.
- 27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.
- 28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you.
- 29 Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard;
- 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

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### **John 3:16-21**

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

### **Matthew 5:14-16**

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

### **John 8:12**

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

### **John 1:4-5**

In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.