

We Need Christmas! Part 3

The Diversion of Christmas Happiness

The Command to Be Joyful *(Phil. 4:4)*

“Joy” = a deep-seated happiness; a sense of well-being and contentedness

Commanded to have joy “always” – not dependent on circumstances

Joy in the Lord’s Presence *(Ps. 16:11)*

Joy is found “in Your presence”

Why is the Lord’s presence so joy-filling?

Christmas and Joy

The joyful news to the shepherds = “born” *(Lk. 2:8-11)*

The joyful news to Joseph = “Immanuel” *(Mt. 1:20-23)*

Applying the Bible to Life

- Do an honest self-evaluation: do you look for joy more in the blessings God gives you than in God Himself?
- What current circumstances in your life seem to be robbing you of joy?
 - Do any of those circumstances stop you from being with God?
 - Do any of those circumstances change God’s character qualities?
- What can you do to open your eyes and reorient your attention to the reality of God’s presence in your life?