

## Sermon Notes

### ***Things That Matter: Beautiful Produce in an Age of Crop Failure***

#4 – “On Joy” – I Peter 1:3-9

#### I. Introduction

A. Joy is intrinsic to the Christian life.

1. My greatest problem in life is solved.
2. My greatest benefit in life is union with Christ.

B. Paul to Rome – Romans 14:17

C. Jesus’ thoughts – John 10:10; John 17:13

D. Often circumstances dictate our experience of joy.

1. Life is good, we have joy.
2. Life is bad, we have less joy.
3. Commanded to be joyful – I Thess. 5:16; Phil. 4:4
4. Stanley Gale (Senior pastor of RPC of Westchester, PA)
5. Explanation of “Circumstances” – Latin origin

#### II. Joy defined

A. An inner disposition of the heart. It should not be confused with happiness.

B. Counsel from Peter

1. He wrote to believers in persecution.
2. Persecution takes many forms – I Peter 1:6
3. He focused upon our inheritance.

C. Our joy is hinged to our Living Hope.

1. Key text: I Peter 1:3-9

#### III. Comfort from a Living Hope

A Focus on hope

1. Our hope rests upon \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ from the dead (vs.3).
2. Our hope rests in the promise of our \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.4).
  - a. Hope is incorruptible.
    1. Isaiah 24: 3-4; Jeremiah 2:7
  - b. Hope is undefiled.
  - c. Hope will not fade away.

#### IV. Stumbling blocks to joy

A. Misplaced security

1. Luke 10:17-20

B. Sin in our lives

1. Psalm 51:12

C. The discipline of God

1. Hebrews 12:11; 12:6; Psalm 50:15; Jeremiah 29:11

D. Trials of faith

1. Lamentations 3:32

#### V. Closing Thought

A. My hope – from *The Solid Rock*, Hymn #92

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus’ blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.