

December 13, 2020

Christmas Series: God With Us
Today's Message: God With Us Brings Joy

⇒ **Last Week:** “Nourish to Flourish”

Psalm 27:4

Psalm 27:6 “*I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy, I will sing and make melody to the Lord.”*

John 15:9-11

Luke 2:10, 11

Matthew 2:9-11

“**Joy** is the serious business of heaven” ~ C.S. Lewis

1 Corinthians 1:30

NOTICE: When we start to fully realize that Jesus became all this for us—the limitless joy of God begins in us.”

Ephesians 1:7 “*In Him we have redemption through His blood...*”

God With Us Brings Joy

1. “**Enter Into the Joy of The Lord**” - **Matthew 25:21**

NOTICE: It's Not — “Well Done: “Good and Brilliant” ... “Good and Talented”

Three TRUTHS:

1) To “enter into the joy of the Lord” Be “Faithful” - “*God loves a cheerful giver*”, with whatever you are or whatever you possess.

Matthew 25:24-26 Luke 21:1-4

2) The spirit on which you give/live determines the value of your gift/life, not the amount.

3) We get to give, it's a privilege; because: it is good for us, not because God needs it.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

2. **Choose The Joy Path** **Luke 1:46-48**

Mary Had A Choice: With all the Fear/Confusion/Questions... She chose surrender and trust—which brought great Joy!

Philippians 4:4, 6-9, 11

Nehemiah 8:10

Nehemiah Made The Choice: to allow his heart to be broken over his people: There is strength in the joy God gives; it lifts our hearts from despair and strengthens our hands for action.

Learn To Pray: “Dear Lord—help me to enjoy this _____, not just get thru it.”

Psalm 16:11

1 Peter 1:8, 9

In Christ: “Inexpressible and glorious joy”!!