

HOW CAN WE BE MERRY, HAPPY, AND BLESSED? VARIOUS

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Introduction

During this time of year we are usually bombarded with others' **WISHES** for us to be **MERRY, HAPPY, AND BLESSED!**

Some say "**MERRY CHRISTMAS**" (The word "**MERRY**" means "*to be joyful*"), some say "**HAPPY HOLIDAYS,**" and then right after **CHRISTMAS** folks will be **WISHING** us all a "**HAPPY NEW YEAR**" or "**A BLESSED NEW YEAR**" And those things are good! We should want others to be **MERRY** and **HAPPY** and **BLESSED** as **BELIEVERS!**

But we need to realize that there are those who have a difficult time being MERRY, HAPPY, or feel BLESSED this time of year.

Some may be **UNHAPPY** about what they are **GETTING** for **CHRISTMAS** or even what they are **GIVING** for **CHRISTMAS!** (But, our focus should be on what **GOD** has given **US!**)

Some may be **UNHAPPY** because maybe they didn't get to go be with their **FAMILY** or their **FAMILY** didn't get to come be with them! (I understand that disappointment, but it shouldn't stop us from having a **BLESSED CHRISTMAS** and **NEW YEAR!**)

Some may be **DEPRESSED** during this time of the year because it reminds them of **LOVED ONES** who are not with them any more! (I understand those feelings as well, but even that should not stop us from having a **BLESSED CHRISTMAS** and **NEW YEAR!**)

Some folks will possibly be **UNHAPPY** because of something that **HAPPENS** or the **CIRCUMSTANCES** they might be in! (I even understand that...It's part of living in a sin-cursed world, but we are not to let the **HAPPENINGS** or the **CIRCUMSTANCES** control our lives as **BELIEVERS!**)

Thankfully, there are many folks (and I hope you are one of them) who **WILL CHOOSE** to have a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** in spite of the **HAPPENINGS** or **CIRCUMSTANCES** they will see and know just how **BLESSED** they are!

When we look at the familiar **ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS** accounts in **MATTHEW** and **LUKE** we see that much the same was going on then as now!

WE SEE SOME WHO DID NOT HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS BECAUSE OF THE HAPPENINGS or the CIRCUMSTANCES!

A. HEROD. (Matthew 2:3)

1. He was **TROUBLED!** (Saw **JESUS** as competition!)
2. He was **DECEITFUL!** (He tried to manipulate the **WISE MEN** and use them for his own **DECEITFUL** purposes!)

B. ALL of JERUSALEM. (Matthew 2:3)

If the king felt threatened, bad things could happen and did happen! They lived in **FEAR** about what might happen!

C. CHIEF PRIESTS & SCRIBES. (Matthew 2:4)

They didn't want to mess this up, yet they managed to! **MESSIAH** came and by-and-large they missed it!

D. BETHLEHEM & ALL THE COASTS THEREOF. (Matthew 2:16-18)

If they had been **JOYFUL**, it was quickly taken from them!

WE SEE OTHERS WHO DID HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS IN SPITE OF THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES!

A. JOSEPH. (Matthew 1:18-25)

1. **DOUBT** and **DISAPPOINTMENT. (Vs 19-20)**
2. **OBEDIENCE** and **BLESSING. (Vs 24-25)**

B. MARY. (Luke 1:26-55)

1. **FEAR** and **BEWILDERMENT. (Vs 29)**
2. **SUBMISSION** and **BLESSING. (Vs 38)**

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- C. SHEPHERDS. (Luke 2:8-20)**
- 1. FEAR. (Vs 9)**
 - 2. FAITH, SEEKING or SEARCHING, and BLESSING. (Vs 15-16)**
- D. SIMEON. (Luke 2:22-35)**
- 1. EXPECTATION and ANTICIPATION. (Vs 26)**
 - 2. FULFILLED PROMISE and BLESSING.**
- E. WISE MEN. (Matthew 2:1-12)**
- 1. They Had A Long, Treacherous Journey! (Vs 1-2)**
 - 2. They SOUGHT CHRIST in FAITH and FOUND HIM And in finding HIM they found BLESSING! (Vs 9-11)**

- A. TRUST HIM For Salvation! (Christ IS our Salvation!)
Psalms 32:1-2—“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”**
- B. TRUST HIM For Victory! (Christ IS our Victory!)
2 Corinthians 2:14—“Now thanks be unto God, which *always causeth us to triumph in Christ*, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”**
- II. WE CAN BE MERRY, HAPPY, AND BLESSED IF WE WALK IN THE CHOOSING OF THE LORD!**
Psalms 65:44—“Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.”

What was the difference between those who DID NOT have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and those who were BLESSED at CHRISTMAS? It was their RESPONSE to the MESSAGE OF CHRIST AND HIS BIRTH!

So, how can WE have a MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR? How can we be BLESSED during this HOLIDAY SEASON and even BEYOND!?

- I. WE CAN BE MERRY, HAPPY, AND BLESSED IF OUR TRUST IS IN THE LORD!**
Psalms 2:12—“Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”
- Psalms 34:88*—“O taste and see that the LORD is good: *blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*”
- Psalms 40:44*—“Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust”
- Psalms 84:12*—“O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.”

Psalms 1:1-3—“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” **(Trust And Obey!)**

Psalms 119:1-2—“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. 2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.”

Psalms 112:1—“Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.”

Psalms 128:1—“Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.”

The ways of the world can only bring a temporal happiness!

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**III. WE CAN BE MERRY, HAPPY, AND BLESSED IF WE DWELL
IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!**

Psalms 84:4-5—“**Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.** Selah. 5 *Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.*”

A. THE LORD’S HOUSE IS THE PLACE OF HIS PRAISE!

Psalms 100:1-5—“**Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.** 2 *Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.* 3 *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.* 4 **Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.** 5 *For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*”

B. THE LORD’S HOUSE IS THE PLACE OF HIS PRESENCE!

Matthew 18:20—“**For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**”

C. THE LORD’S HOUSE IS THE PLACE OF HIS PEOPLE!

Psalms 111:1—“**Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, In the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.**”

D. THE LORD’S HOUSE IS THE PLACE OF HIS POWER!

1. Power In Prayer!

Matthew 18:19—“**Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.**”

2. Power In Preaching!

1 Corinthians 1:18—“**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**”

E. THE LORD’S HOUSE IS THE PLACE OF OUR PARTICIPATION OR PARTNERSHIP!

1. We Worship With Others!

Psalms 34:33—“**O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.**”

2. We Grow Together With Others!

2 Peter 3:18—“**But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.**”

3. We Participate In Giving Together With Others!

a. We Participate With Our Spiritual Gifts!

1 Peter 4:10-11—“**As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.** 11 *If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*”

b. We Participate With Our Financial Gifts!

1 Corinthians 16:22—“**Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.**”

4. We Participate In Exhortation Together With Others!

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Hebrews 10:24-25—“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

- IV. **WE CAN BE MERRY, HAPPY, AND BLESSED IF WE RESPOND CORRECTLY TO THE CHASTENING AND TEACHING THE LORD! (Hebrews 12:5ff esp. Vs 12)**
Don't focus on the **CHASTENING**, but on the **AFTERWARD!**

Conclusion

Can we truly be **BLESSED** and have a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY and BLESSED NEW YEAR** even when we don't know what the **NEW YEAR** may hold?

Well, that can depend on our **CIRCUMSTANCES** or it can depend on **CHRIST** in your life—which will it be for you?

ARE YOU TRUSTING IN HIM?

ARE YOU OK WITH WALKING IN THE CHOOSING OF THE LORD?

ARE YOU DWELLING IN HIS HOUSE AS YOU SHOULD?

ARE YOU LEARNING FROM CHASTENING AND TEACHING OF THE LORD IN YOUR LIFE?