



Scripture Reading: John 3:17-20

**The Essentials for True Joy**  
**1 John 1:1-4**

- 1) The priority of knowing & trusting Christ for salvation
  - a) Word of Life (not Silence of Death)
  - b) The eternal Son of God obtained victory at the cross
  - c) Karl Marx: happiness begins with the abolition of religion
- 2) Genuine life change results in proclamation of the Truth
  - a) We have a message to preach
  - b) We aren't out for numbers but to share the joy
- 3) Fellowship is Christ's answer to our loneliness (cf. Matt 28:20)
- 4) Joy is Christ's answer to our emptiness
  - a) A state of total intellectual & emotional satisfaction
  - b) A spirit of exultation—beyond happiness; active not passive
  - c) Entails a feeling of power and strength. No fear!  
(cf. 1 Jn 4:18; cf. 2 Tim 1:7)
- 5) Thoughts on joy
  - a) Christians are meant to be full of joy
  - b) No right to be depressed or anxious
  - c) No excuse for seeking worldly fixes
  - d) No reason to give in
  - e) No grounds for fear
  - f) Christ was joyful, yet He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief (Isa 53:3)
  - g) Paul knew joy, yet his life was difficult
  - h) Joy rests in Christ's victory at the cross
  - i) Joy comes from a well-defined testimony of assurance (cf. 2 Tim. 1:12)
  - j) Christians cannot share joy if they have none