



“Preparing For Joy”

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And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”
Isaiah 25:9

Introduction:

There is a difference between getting ready for Christmas and getting ready for Jesus.

Joy’s Realities

1. Jesus Christ is the truest source of deepest joy.
 - Jesus’ birth was marked by joy and gladness.
 - His life and ministry were characterized by bringing joy to others
 - Joy is a dominant theme of His coming kingdom.

2. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the world to receive Jesus, the Joy of Heaven.

3. The human heart is quickly and easily satisfied with far lesser joys.

- We turn our backs on God
- We experience family dysfunction and breakup
- We live in foolishness and disobedience

4. How to awaken your affection for true Joy.

Never doth a soul know what solid joy and substantial pleasure is till, once being weary of itself, it renounces all property and gives itself up to the Author of its being. (Henry Scougal)

For your LIFE GROUP:

1. Tell about the greatest Christmas present you received as a child.
2. What present have you given that brought you the greatest joy?
3. Meditate and reflect on these passages on joy: Psalm 51:8,12; Nehemiah 8:10; Luke 2:8-10; John 15:11; 1 Peter 1:6-8
4. Why are we so easily satisfied with lesser joy? What will you do to awaken your joy in Christ?