

Joy to the World

Pastor Jeff Graham

Sermon Date: 12/24/2023

Sermon in a Sentence: You can choose joy by setting your mind on things above and remembering that in the end, we win!

Application: The Magi experienced exceedingly great joy at the end of their epic road trip, and the glow of that experience probably lasted a while, but the glow eventually fades. God has promised that we can choose joy in all seasons by setting our minds on things above and remembering that in the end, we win!

Ice Breaker Questions (Choose one or do them all, everyone answers):

- Are you an early or last-minute gift shopper?
- Do you have any favorite Christmas traditions?
- Will you be (or did you) seeing family this Christmas?

Diving In:

Read the Christmas Story in Matthew 1:18-2:12

- What are the moments of joy that you notice?
- What are the moments of struggle?
- Talk about a time in your life when God asked you to take a step of faith.

Going Deeper:

- Read Philippians 4:8
- Take time to reflect on those words: True, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy

- **How does a focus on the good things in our lives help us to choose joy?**
- **Verse 3 of Joy to the World says**
 “No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as far as the
 curse is found”
 - **Read Romans 8: 18-21**
 - **What does Romans 8 tell us about the curse that is talked about in Joy to the World?**
- **Read Revelation 21: 1-5**
 - This verse represents the promise that in the life to come, we win!
- **How are you going to choose joy this week?**

If possible, end your time by singing joy to the world and thinking about how God sent His son to lift the curse!

How can we pray for you?