



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 29, 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY AS WE APPROACH THE NEW YEAR? ARE YOU HAPPY YOU WERE ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY OR ABLE TO BUY YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN SOME REALLY NICE GIFTS? ARE YOU HAPPY EVERYONE ARRIVED WITHOUT INCIDENT, ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS? ARE YOU HAPPY THAT THE CHRISTMAS STUFF WILL SOON BE PACKED AWAY? ARE YOU HAPPY TO BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME QUIET TIME TO RECOVER FROM THE HOLIDAY RUSH? WHAT WILL MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR HAPPY?

I ASK BECAUSE I WAS RECENTLY STRUCK BY A STATEMENT I READ IN LUKE 10:21. THERE WE FIND LUKE'S COMMENT "AT THAT VERY TIME HE REJOICED GREATLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT." THE HE TO WHOM LUKE REFERS IS JESUS. JESUS GREATLY REJOICED.

I CHECKED TO SEE HOW MANY TIMES THE BIBLE SAYS THAT SOMEONE GREATLY REJOICED AND FOUND ONLY FIVE OTHER ACCOUNTS. PEOPLE GREATLY REJOICED WHEN SAUL WAS MADE KING (I SAM. 11:15) AND HIRAM REJOICED THAT DAVID'S SON, SOLOMON, WAS WISE (I KINGS 5:7). THEN IN I CHRON. 29:9 I FOUND THAT DAVID AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL GREATLY REJOICED WHEN GIVING OFFERINGS FOR THE TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION. WE ARE TOLD IN ACTS 16:34 THAT THE PHILIPPIAN JAILOR GREATLY REJOICED THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE SAVED AND FINALLY IN PHILIPPIANS 4:10 PAUL GREATLY REJOICES FOR THE SUPPLIES HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH.

I THOUGHT IT SOMEWHAT STRANGE TO READ THIS COMMENT ABOUT CHRIST GREATLY REJOICING AND DON'T RECALL NOTICING IT BEFORE. SO NOW I'M WONDERING, WHAT WOULD MAKE JESUS SO JOYFUL? WHAT I FOUND WAS THAT JESUS WAS VERY HAPPY ABOUT SEVERAL THINGS. HE WAS HAPPY BECAUSE SATAN WAS BEING OVERPOWERED BY CHRIST'S DISCIPLES (SEE VERSES 17-18). JESUS WAS ALSO HAPPY BECAUSE THE DISCIPLES WERE EXCITED ABOUT THEIR AUTHORITY OVER EVIL FORCES (V. 19). FURTHERMORE, JESUS WAS OVERJOYED BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT HIS DISCIPLES NAMES WERE RECORDED IN HEAVEN AND THEY WOULD HAVE A HOME THERE (V. 20). FINALLY, THE LORD EXPRESSED PRAISE AND GRATITUDE TO GOD THAT THE FATHER REVEALS THINGS TO SIMPLE AND UNASSUMING ONES RATHER THAN THOSE WHO ARE WISE AND INTELLIGENT. (V. 21).

CHRIST'S JOY WAS SIGNIFICANT AND SINCERE BECAUSE HIS FOLLOWERS RECOGNIZED FOUR THINGS.

1. SPIRITUAL VICTORY (17-18)
2. SPIRITUAL POWER (19)
3. SPIRITUAL LIFE (20)
4. SPIRITUAL INSIGHT (21)

I WONDER, DO THESE THINGS BRING US JOY?

THIS NEW YEAR LET'S GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO WHAT WILL BRING SINCERE JOY.

LOOKING UP,

Pastor Chuck Circle