

## **IT'S GREAT TO BE A CHRISTIAN!!!**

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Too many, for too long, have had the idea that Christianity is somber, morose and doleful. And that it is only for old ladies and children.
- B. Opposite of the picture painted in the scriptures. Christians of all ages both male and female over 1900 years ago were happy, and joyous.
- C. Ethiopian was obedient and went on his way rejoicing Acts 8:35-39.
- D. Paul and Silas, even in jail, sang praises unto God, preached to jailor. Acts 16:25-34; jailor baptized and rejoiced; persecuted Christians rejoiced Acts 5:41. (Note Jas 5:13)
- E. Of all that live upon this earth, Christians have more and better reasons to be happy than others! Why?

### DISCUSSION:

#### **I. BECAUSE GOD LOVES US AND WANTS US TO BE SAVED.**

- A. Man can't save himself Jer 10:23 yet God cares for us. 2Pet 3: 9
- B. Even though all have sinned Rom 3:23, God loves us. Jhn 3:16
- C. We should be happy and confident, God cares for us 1Pet 5:7
- D. Great to be a Christian because God loves us and saves us

#### **II. BECAUSE JESUS DIED TO SAVE US**

- A. Because we all sin Rom 3:23, we must die: Rom 6:23
- B. God demonstrated greatest degree of love Jhn 15:13
- C. Rejoice, not because we're sinners, but because Christ died for us Heb 2:14
- D. Song "Nothing but the blood of Jesus." Heb 9:22
- E. While we were in sin Jesus paid price of redemption Rom 5:8; 1Pet 1:18,19
- F. Great to be a Christian because Jesus died for us

#### **III. BECAUSE JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST.**

- A. As High Priest, offers His blood to cleanse us Heb 2:17; 4:15
- B. His enemies thought by putting Him to death, His work would be ended, but, He was raised from the dead! Heb 7:25
- C. We can't plead our case alone, but Jesus can and does 1Jhn 2:1
- D. To come to God, we must know Christ is only way. Jno 14:6
- E. Great to be a Christian because Jesus is our High Priest

#### **IV. BECAUSE OF THE PURPOSE AND MEANING OF LIFE.**

- A. Philosophers, through ages, sought answer to question: "What is the purpose of life?"
  - 1. Man can never supply the answer in and of himself Jer 10:23
  - 2. But God can and does: Eccl 12:13
- B. Aimlessness manifest in society traceable to a loss of faith in God
  - 1. When man turns from God, he loses his purpose for living!
  - 2. Jesus showed this in His life on the earth. Jhn 4:34; 6:38
  - 3. He fulfilled that purpose Jhn 17:4
- C. Only when we "glorify God" in our lives, can we say we have fulfilled His purpose in giving us life 1Cor 6:19,20
- D. Paul summed up the meaning of man's existence Acts 17:27

- E. Great to be a Christian, because that fulfills life's purpose.

#### **V. BECAUSE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS.**

- A. Someone said, "No man is an island." Rom 14:7; We rightly depend on one another
- B. Heart of Christianity is being one in Christ. 1Cor 1:10
- C. We need one another just as early Christians Acts 4:32
- D. How good and how pleasant to dwell together in unity Psa 133:1
  - 1. Comfort one another 1Thess 4:18; 5:11
  - 2. I might not be able to stand by myself, but I can with other Christians Eph 4:16
- E. Great to be a Christian because of our associates

#### **VI. BECAUSE OF THE PEACE IT BRINGS TO OUR LIFE**

- A. In world of turmoil, anger and strife, peace is a coveted treasure.
- B. Only Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6) can bring peace Rom 5:1
- C. When Paul speaks of our being at peace with God, note what he says about Christ. Eph 2:14-16.
- D. So, in Christ, we have peace with God and with each other.
- E. We do not worry about material things like World Matt 6:33,34
- F. Great to be a Christian because of peace we have

#### **VII. BECAUSE OF THE ASSURANCE OF HEAVEN.**

- A. Life is tolerable because of hope in Christ 1Cor 15:19; Jhn 14:1-3
- B. We have assurance that we will really go to heaven 1Jhn 1:7; 2:1,3; 3:22; 5:11,13.
- C. As a child anticipates the joys of a birthday party, so the child of God lives with hope of eternity in heaven. Rev 2:10.
- D. Great to be a Christian because our hope is not centered here, but in heaven. 1Pet 1:3,4

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Yes, it is great to be a Christian.
- B. The joy and happiness of serving Him in this life makes it great
- C. The help given by the Lord and our brethren makes it great
- D. The anticipation of eternity with God in heaven makes it great
- E. These all, make the toils of the road to seem nothing. Rom 8:18; 2Cor 4:16-18
- F. It is great to be a Christian, because life without Christ would not be worth living.
- G. Are you a Christian? If not, why not?