Sermon Notes for November 3, 2013

Joy in the Midst of Trials
I Peter 1:6-9

Introduction

Joy and woe are woven fine,
A clothing for the soul divine,
Under every grief and pine.
Runs a joy with silken twine
It is right it should be so;
Man was made for joy and woe;
And when this we rightly know
Through the world we safely go.
William Blake 1757-1827

Joy and suffering are part of life in this world.

I. Joy is possible in the midst of trials. Verse 6

The basis for our joy is what we have in Christ.
- A living hope.
- A lasting inheritance.
- A divine protection.

The trials of life come in all types of shapes and sizes. They include:
- Persecution – Matthew 13:21
- Physical Ailments – Galatians 4:13-14
- Temptations – Matthew 26:40-41
- Stress from living in a fallen world – II Peter 2:7-9

The trials of this life are temporary.

The trials of this life are necessary.

II. God has a purpose for our trials. Verse 7

God uses trials to prove the genuineness of our faith.

God uses trials to purify and refine us.

What do we learn going through trials?

There are things that we learn through trials that we would not learn any other way.
III. Genuine faith brings great joy. Verses 7-9

God is glorified when believers stand firm in trials.

Believers will be rewarded for their faith.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because, when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.” James 1:12

Genuine faith leads to an inexpressible and glorious joy.

Conclusion

Life is hard. But it is possible to have joy in the midst of trials, if we will remember:

- What we have in Christ.
- There is a purpose for our trials.
- Those who trust in him will experience great joy and great reward.