

“OVERCOMING TRIBULATIONS”

12/3/2023 AM

INTRO.:

A. Text: *John 16:29-33*.

B. Regarding the text:

1. “Be of good cheer...”
2. In spite of troubled times, the Christian has much to be cheerful about.
3. Christ has given us peace and joy.
 - 1) Through Him we have real peace!
 - 2) *John 14:27*.
4. Note *Philippians 4:7*.

DISCUSSION: WE CAN COPE WITH TROUBLED TIMES BECAUSE...

I. THE LORD IS IN CONTROL.

A. *Mark 6:50*.

1. Context: A storm comes up and Jesus goes to the disciples.
2. They are fearful. Jesus said, “be not afraid.”
3. *Mark 4:38-39* Jesus slept in a raging storm.

B. The people of God need not fear.

1. *2 Chro. 20:17*; *Josh. 1:9*; *Pro. 3:24*.
2. Even in tribulations the Christian can be happy and feel secure (*1 Pet. 3:14*).

II. GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY.

A. *Acts 27:22-25* Paul’s confidence was in God’s promise.

1. *Rom. 4:21*.
2. *Titus 1:2*.

B. Happiness comes from God’s assurances (2 Tim. 1:12).

C. This fact should cause us to rejoice.

1. *2 Cor. 5:6-10*.
2. *John 14:1-4*.

III. OUR SINS CAN BE FORGIVEN.

A. Sin brings sadness. (It separates: *Isa. 59:1-2*).

B. However, we can be happy because there is a “fountain filled with blood... And sinners plunged...”

1. *Luke 15:10*.
2. *Luke 15:32*.

C. Obedience brings salvation (*Heb. 5:9*).

1. A joy unspeakable.
2. To obey brings happiness.
 - 1) The jailor rejoiced (*Acts 16:34*).
 - 2) The eunuch (*Acts 8:39*).

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. Today we can be a happy people because...

1. The Lord is still in control.
2. The Lord will do exactly as He has promised.
3. Our sins can be forgiven.

B. *Psa. 146:5* “Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.”

C. Appeal:

1. Happiness is to be found only in the Lord.
2. Obedience to the gospel.