

# Sermon Notes

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## The Power of Perspective for Rejoicing

Christian Sanich, 12/20/2015

**Text sermon questions, during the sermon, to (602) 824-8030**

**Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials.** (James 1:2-4)

We're supposed to use our thinking to lead ourselves to joy.

Knowing that endurance and spiritual maturity are the result of trials, we are supposed to use that information to lead ourselves to joy.

Perspective is understanding the relative importance of things. We should understand that certain spiritual experiences are more important than the life difficulties we experience. And we can rejoice in those spiritual things.

**Heavenly perspective can give us cause for rejoicing.**

Your reward is great in heaven. (Matthew 5:11-12)

Supposed to outweigh the sadness of being mistreated because you are a Christ-follower

Rejoice that your name is recorded in heaven. (Luke 10:20)

The Asian Christians greatly rejoiced even when grieved by various trials. (1 Peter 1:3-6)

The Hebrew Christians joyfully accepted theft of their property. (Hebrews 10:32-34)

The apostles were flogged, and yet rejoiced they they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for Jesus' name. (Acts 5:40-41)

**When facing very grievous difficulties, it appears that if we use our thinking to lead ourselves into the perspective God has provided for us, we can bring ourselves to a place of rejoicing.**

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**What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.**

Listen to last week's sermon on having more joy, or pass it on to others, at [www.StoneCreekBibleChurch.org](http://www.StoneCreekBibleChurch.org)

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Application questions for 12/20/2015 sermon

## **The Power of Perspective for Rejoicing**

**(Ask everyone to answer this first question.)**

Is this message helpful to you? How?

(You don't have to spend a lot of time on these three sub-questions, if people don't have a lot to say. You want to make sure to get to the last question.)

Was there a particular perspective shared in the sermon that you think might be especially helpful when you are struggling?

If you have had an experience where perspective (based on biblical truth) helped you come through difficulties, with some measure of rejoicing, please share that?

Are there other biblical truths you can think of that might help you have perspective in the midst of difficulties? (For example, when I have physical pain or limitations, I often joyfully think about how I won't have those in my eternal body.)

**(Make sure to get to this question.)**

Do you have skepticism about the helpfulness of what was presented? If so, do you write off this whole thing, or are you working through it?

Do you have thoughts or questions that the group might help you with?