

Women & the Bible



A Biblical Guide of Christian Living for Ladies

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The following scripture references are from the New King James version.

SCRIPTURES OF FOCUS:

Ephesians 1:3

Isaiah 61:10

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Matthew 25:35-40

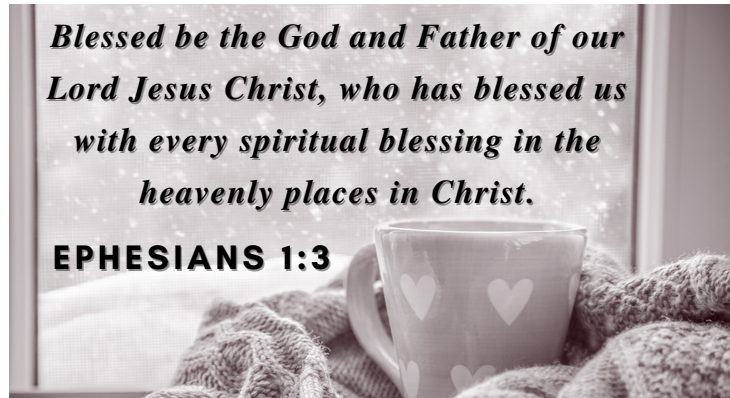
Philippians 2:3-4



*Written by
Shannon Crawford*

How the year 2022 has flown by. Christmas is already upon us. For many people, this season is their most favorite time of the year. I think back to my childhood in West Kentucky. We would all meet at Grandmother and Granddaddy's house on Christmas Eve for our family party. It was always fun getting to fellowship with everyone, especially those who we didn't get to see that often. Those precious memories I'll always cherish. Now it's time to make new memories that I hope someday my daughter will be able to cherish.

Around this time of year, the thought of many including our friends, family, neighbors, etc. is that Jesus is the reason for the season. Scripture teaches that Jesus is the reason for all good and perfect things that we are blessed with upon this earth.



Now let us meditate on what joy should mean in the heart of the Christian.

JESUS

What better joy to have than the gift of salvation from our Lord. Notice the rejoicing of Isaiah in **chapter 61 verse 10**: *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

As significant it was for Jesus to be born, we must never forget the primary reason for our Heavenly Father having to send His Son to the world. Paul, an apostle, simply explains it in **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** by declaring the gospel to the brethren at Corinth. *"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,"*

I believe the Lord would rather want us to focus on His death, burial, and resurrection than just His birth. Christians do so in remembrance of Him every first day of the week by partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine (**Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29**).

There's an original acapella hymn that I enjoy listening to by a fellow brother in Christ, Paul Mays, entitled, "Jesus All Day." The concept of this hymn is just being focused on Jesus every day. This is by how we live our lives such as the decisions we make and how we present ourselves to the world. Have you ever thought that perhaps the world may only get one taste of true Christianity because of you? Let's always keep in mind that what we do and who we are and what we may accomplish or what we may think we accomplish in this life is to the glory of God. It's all about Jesus.

OTHERS

Unfortunately for some, this is the most difficult time of the year. For those who have lost loved ones for example, it can be a really hard time because this is the time when they're used to being together and they remember Christmases from years gone by. For those brave men and women who are serving in the military that are unable to come home for Christmas or folks who are shut-in and are unable to see their family as often as they would like, times like this makes them particularly feel lonely.

One of the best ways to serve other people is showing them hospitality. Invite a friend or a stranger you just met over for dinner or for a Bible study. If you know of anyone who is going through a rough time, give them a call, send them a card or even go visit them. Showing others that we care and love them is the best gift we can ever give, and that act of service keeps on giving. In **Matthew 25:35-40**, Jesus gives us a list of things we can do as Christians. When we are helping people in need, we are glorifying the Lord. *"... 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"* (verse 40)

YOURSELF

To follow the Lord, we must surrender to Him. **Luke 9:23** says, *"...If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."* This is a change of life attitude that involves giving up ourselves and to be led by Christ.

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

Do you know what the best feeling of happiness is? It's when you're happy because you've made somebody else happy. By helping someone in their time of need, we are not going to worry about our own concerns. As long as we are doing all we can to be a faithful servant of Christ, He will help provide for our needs (**Matthew 6:33**).

"I wish every New Year's resolution was: Obey God. Help people. In that order." – Celine Sparks

For the year 2023, let's strive to have the mindset of joy: **Jesus** first, **others** second, and **yourself** last. As we turn the final page on this chapter called 2022, I would like to close out with **Colossians 1:9-11**. This is my prayer for you:

...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Shannon

QUESTIONS 

Feel free to send any of your questions, comments,
or article ideas to: office@salinachurchofchrist.com