

John 17:13-14

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Have you ever wondered what God thinks that we need to really make us happy? We think, and even ask for a new job, or new car, or a new house or a new phone or computer or better food or new clothes or a nice long vacation or _____?

These are just some of our ideas of things that we think would make us happy or bring us joy into our lives. Sure, they may bring a temporary joy, but do they really bring an everlasting joy?

- ✓ No, because new jobs get old.
- ✓ New cars start to break down eventually.
- ✓ We grow out of our new houses, and they will someday need repairs.
- ✓ New cell phones and computers get outdated very fast.
- ✓ The better food we want, we soon get tired of and start wanting something else.
- ✓ New clothes go out of style almost as fast as computers that get faster and better.
- ✓ Vacations usually wear us out, or cost so much that we have to work harder to pay for our vacation than when we first left.

So, what do we need to have lasting joy? Jesus tells us in the beginning of verse 14

† *I have given them Your word*

Just think about that for a moment. Here is Jesus who is at the end of His earthly ministry, and would be going to the cross in less than 24 hours, and the one thing He wanted to make sure that He gave to the disciples, and us, is God's word. Jesus did not say,

- ✓ I gave them a ministry that is now at a new job.
- ✓ I gave them a new camel to ride on.
- ✓ I gave them all new houses.
- ✓ I gave them whole wheat bread and great seafood to eat.
- ✓ I gave them this little electric thing that they can look up information from anywhere in the world.
- ✓ I gave them new tunics to wear.
- ✓ I took them out of their jobs for a time of rest.

No, Jesus knew that the most important thing, and the only thing that would give us everlasting joy, was God's word. I know for myself, I will sometimes wake up in a funk or just feeling like I'm going to have a bad day. But I also spend time in the word every

morning, and once I do, my day, that may had seemed to start out bad, turned into joy, just by spending a little time in the morning with the Lord in His word!

If you are having a bad morning, night, day or even a bad week. Try spending time with the Lord, away from TV, your phone or anything else, and simply be with the Lord in His word. What have you got to lose, or should I say what have you got to gain? **Joy!**

† **John 17:13b** *That they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word*