

Gospel Joy in a World Gone Mad: *How Jesus Radically Frees the Christian To Live Joyfully in An Angry and Chaotic World.*

Philippians 3:17-21

“It’s a great big stupid world, and we’re feeling kinda queezy as it turns around.”

Randy Stonehill

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.”

Proverbs 13:12

“...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

Where you put your hope will affect where your heart and head will go when the world inevitably fails to deliver on its promises.

Why should we commit ourselves to live joyfully on mission with Christ in a world gone mad?

1. Option #1 – Put your hope in humanity and you will ultimately be disappointed. Disappointment regularly produces hostile, hopeless, hedonistic, shameless materialists. (3:17-20)

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” C.S. Lewis

- Hostile – “many walk... as enemies of the cross.”
- Hopeless and Hell-bound – “their end is destruction”
- Hedonistic – “their god is their appetite”
- Shameless – “their glory is in their shame”
- Materialists – “who set their minds on earthly things.”

2. Option #2 – Put your hope in Christ. Ultimately, Christ produces happy, hopeful, heavenly-minded, humble, holy people.

“For if we take the imagery of Scripture seriously, if we believe that God will one day give us the Morning Star and cause us to put on the splendour of the sun, then we may surmise that both the ancient myths and the modern poetry, so false as history, may be very near the truth as prophecy.

At present we are on the outside of the world, the wrong side of the door. We discern the freshness and purity of morning, but they do not make us fresh and pure. We cannot mingle with the splendours we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. Someday, God willing, we shall get in.” C.S. Lewis

- Heaven-bound “For our citizenship is in heaven...”
- Happy and hopeful – “ from which we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”
- Humble – “who will transform the body of our humble state...”
- Holy – “into conformity with the body of His glory”

3. The reason that we can rejoice now: The Savior in whom we hope has been given absolute authority to make the world completely new. He Reigns!

“... we eagerly await a Savior”

- He has already won the victory: He is already seated victorious in heaven.
- He is dedicated towards our ultimately glory: He is coming soon to make us like Him, fully free from sin and death, and fully human in the likeness of God.
- He has been granted cosmic authority: He has all power to subject absolutely everything to Himself.