

The Joy of Christ(mas)

It's Christmas eve and am back on my blog.

Christmas season invariably strikes a major chord of joy in all our hearts. For most of us there is something or some event like a family get together or carol singing or cake making or decking the house that makes us feel very joyous. But as the day draws to a close, all the glitter and charm of the day is slowly lost.

Yes Christmas is a joyous time. At the same time I was thinking about friends and families, whose hearts are grieved because of the loss of a dear one. Two of my close friends lost their mothers to cancer, one dear auntie's young son died suddenly leaving a lovely family and there are those who are from broken families, single and alone. So can Christmas be joyous for them also? The ones who grieve, the ones who are alone, the ones who are sick...

Yes the real Christmas, where Christ is the centre will bring a deep joy into our hearts. Probably there may not be the loud surface laughter, glitz and glamour of Christmas, but there can surely be the deep joy and peace that Christ alone can give.

I was reading the entire book of Philippians(only 4 chapters) and this book never failed to move me. Apostle Paul is in the last leg of his life and is imprisoned. Yet sitting inside this prison all he could write is the joy that Christ gives us. He speaks about having left everything for Christ, considering them dung, and speaks about partaking the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and yet he writes again and again to rejoice in the Lord. He says he is not weary to write the same things again and again that is to rejoice.

The joy that comes only with the events surrounding Christmas will only last as long as the dress is new, as long there is company, as long as carols ring loud, as long as the smell of the cake lingers in our homes. But there is a lasting joy that is ours to keep tomorrow and forever. That is to own Jesus Christ as mine, as yours now and forever.

Philippians 3:12 (NRSV) ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;[£] but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Our joy should be founded on Christ. When our life is rooted in Christ our hearts long for the Kingdom above and is not struck to the mud below.

Philippians 3:18-21 (NRSV) ¹⁸**For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.** ¹⁹**Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.** ²⁰**But our citizenship^ε is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.** ²¹**He will transform the body of our humiliation^ε that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,^ε by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.**

We should rejoice when our citizenship is in heaven. That is why even when there are dear ones who are dead we can still celebrate Christ and rejoice in Him, for one day we will see our dear departed. For Paul it was traumatic to live here on earth, for he longed to get Home

Philippians 1:23-24 (NRSV) ²³**I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;** ²⁴**but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.**

Those who have all good reasons to celebrate Christmas loudly and without inhibition should read Phil 3 : 18-21, lest they end up glorifying flesh. Paul refers to them that their god is the belly and their glory shame.

At the same time those who grieve do not need to sit in a corner mourning over the loss, but rejoice in the future, the glorious future. CHRIST IN US IS THE HOPE OF GLORY. (Colossians 1,27).

We do not belong here and the most important thing is that our hearts and minds are set on things above and not of the perishable things.

This is reason to rejoice that CHRIST IN US IS THE HOPE OF GLORY.
HALLELUJAH.

HAVE A GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJkFI5Efy9w>