

## Introduction

1. Christians should be the most joyful people there are
  - a. Sadly, some members of the Lord's church are of all people most miserable (cf. [1 Cor. 15:19](#))
2. We have so much cause for joy
  - a. Jesus is cause for joy
  - b. The church is cause for joy
  - c. Heaven is cause for joy

## Jesus is Cause for Joy

1. The wise men had exceedingly great joy at the arrival of Jesus ([Mt. 2:1-11](#))
  - a. Indeed, this great joy was to all people ([Lk. 2:8-20](#))
2. Though sorrow would come from the crucifixion, there would be joy ([Jn. 16:20-24](#))
  - a. Observe that joy is contrasted with weeping, lamenting, and sorrow ([Jn. 16:20](#))
  - b. The resurrection of Christ was cause for great joy ([Mt. 28:1-8](#))
3. The ascension of Christ was cause for great joy ([Lk. 24:50-53](#))

## The Church is Cause for Joy

1. The parable of the sower shows the Word received with joy ([Mt. 13:18-23](#))
  - a. The stony ground serves as a warning against losing our joy ([Mt. 13:20-21](#))
2. The parable of the hidden treasure shows the joy in finding the church ([Mt. 13:44](#))
  - a. So many are confused about the church and religion in general

- b. What cause for joy to find and be a member of the one, true church!
3. The Ethiopian eunuch exemplified the rejoicing of being a member of the church ([Acts 8:26-39](#))

### Heaven is Cause for Joy

1. Jesus endured the cross looking forward to the joy of Heaven ([Heb. 12:1-2](#))
2. If we are faithful to God, we will enter into that same joy ([Mt. 25:14-23](#))
  - a. No joy for a wicked, lazy, and unprofitable servant ([Mt. 25:24-30](#))

### Conclusion

1. Christians must be the most joyful people there are
  - a. We joy for what Christ has done and continues to do for us
  - b. We joy for the fact we are members of the church which belongs to Christ
  - c. We joy for the fact that Heaven is our long home
2. No more sour faces
  - a. Let us all make our joy full ([1 Jn. 1:1-4](#); [3 Jn. 4](#))!