

# Notes:

Sermon Text

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Subject

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Spiritual "To Do List"  
(things God has shown me today)

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Anyone who is interested in helping to decorate the church with **poinsettias** for this special season is welcome to do so either by purchasing and bringing them in, or by contributing to their purchase price. Make sure to tell Merylin Ellis or Mrs. Owens if you are donating them in honor or remembrance of someone special.

The Christmas card **mail sorter** is up for "special delivery". We suggest that the money you save on postage be donated to missions or another worthy project.

Dr. Philip Amerson, president of Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, tells of asking his 88-year-old father how he was. The elderly retired minister answered with one word: "**Rejoicing.**"

What a great attitude! Imagine rejoicing in the blessings and challenges of each day that God gives us.

Paul suffered numerous hardships including a persistent physical problem he called his "thorn in the flesh," yet he was a man in whom joy abounded. His letter to the Philippians reveals that he kept rejoicing regardless of his problems. "I will continue to rejoice," he writes (1:18).

He asked his friends at Philippi to have a mind to rejoice. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice" (4:4).

It was his dependence upon Christ that enabled him to find contentment and even joy in any and all circumstances. Therefore he affirmed, "I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (4:12-13).



# Joy



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