

DEB MCGREGOR

— live *joy* share *joy* —

SPECIAL
GUEST

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joy and
more joy!

Luke 6: 22-23

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Genesis 3:17b-18

Cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life, thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

John 19:2

And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Key Points:

1. Joy is ours in Christ, not because life is good, but because the Lord is coming soon.
2. Joy is ours in Christ because the Lord has come to out-bless the curse.
3. Joy is yours in Christ, because the Savior welcomes you into the family of God.

Reflection:

For Christians, there is cause for joy even in the throes of bodily deterioration, mental decline and oppressive monotony. Reflect on these words from the third verse of *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*: *All you, beneath your heavy load by care and guild bent low; Who toil along a dreary way with painful steps and slow: Look up, for golden is the hour, come swiftly on the wing; The Prince was born to bring you peace; of Him the angels sing.*

God created, Adam and Eve sinned, God cursed. He promised, thought, that One would be born Who would crush the head of the Serpent. That's Jesus, the Word made flesh, who became sin for us, who took on the Curse of all creation. He put the Curse to death on the cross, and He rose from the grave in triumph over the ancient enemy.

Reflect on the third verse of *Joy to the World*:

*No more let sins and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground: He comes to make His blessings
ow far as the curse is found.*

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