

IN THE EARLIEST CHURCH

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“God made human beings as He made other creatures, to be happy...They are in their right element when they are happy.”

- C.H. Spurgeon

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“It is a Christian duty...
for everyone to be as happy as he can.”

- C.S. Lewis

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“The people of God ought to be the happiest people in all the wide world! People should be coming to us constantly and asking the source of our joy and delight.”

- A.W. Tozer

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Luke 11:36 (TLB)

“If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.”

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Isaiah 52:7 (NASB)

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him
who brings good news, who announces peace
and brings good news of happiness, who
announces salvation, and says to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"

Luke 2:9-11 (NIV)

An angel of the Lord appeared to them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.

Luke 2:9-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

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Psalm 68:3 (NIV)

But may the righteous be glad and rejoice
before God; may they be happy and joyful.

John 13:17 (KJV)

If ye know these things,
happy are ye if ye do them.

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1. **Believed** the Good News

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Acts 16:25

about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them...

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Acts 16:33-34 (NIV)

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Acts 16:33-34 (NIV)

³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God— he and his whole family.

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“I assert without hesitation, that the conversion described in the Scripture is a happy thing and not a miserable one, and that if converted persons are not happy, the fault must be in themselves... I am confident the converted man is the happiest man.”

- J.C. Ryle

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1. **Believed** the Good News
2. **Shared** the Good News

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Acts 15:3 (ESV)

So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers.

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Acts 8:5-8 (ESV)

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.

Acts 8:5-8 (ESV)

⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

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1. **Believed** the Good News
2. **Shared** the Good News
3. **Celebrated** the Good News

Acts 3:9-10 (ESV)

When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him

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Acts 4:21 (ESV)

And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.

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Acts 11:18 (NIV)

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

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Acts 21:20 (NIV)

When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law."

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“Christians ought to be celebrating constantly. We ought to be preoccupied with parties, banquets, feasts, and merriment. We ought to give ourselves over to celebrations of joy because we have been liberated from the fear of life and the fear of death. We ought to attract people to the church quite literally by the sheer pleasure of being a Christian.”

- Robert Hotchkins

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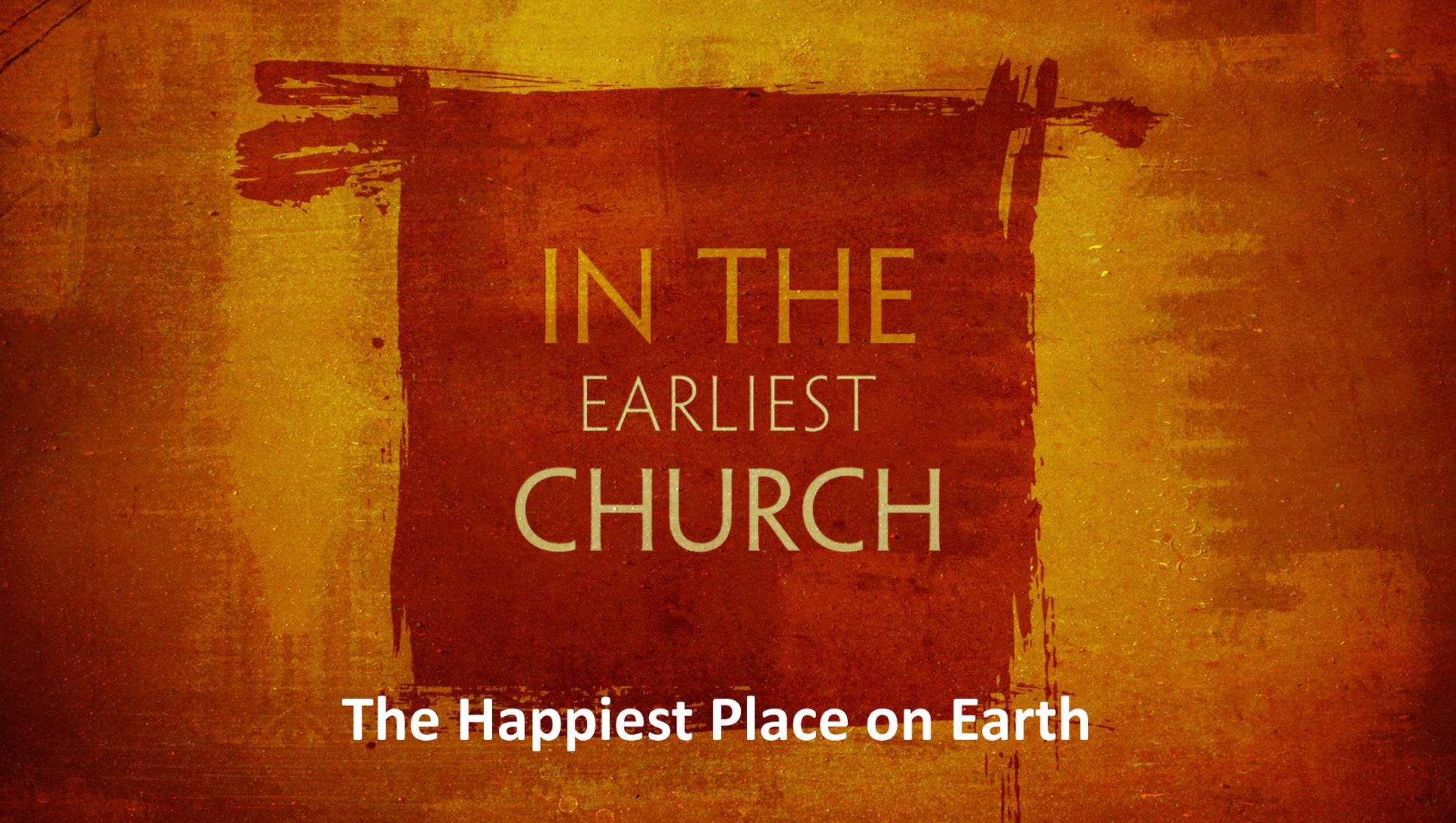
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“The best argument for Christianity is Christians: their joy, their certainty, their completeness. But the strongest argument against Christianity is also Christians--when they are sombre and joyless, when they are self-righteous and smug in complacent consecration, when they are narrow and repressive, then Christianity dies a thousand deaths.”

- Sheldon Vanauken

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The Happiest Place on Earth