

It's Party Time!



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Jesus said,
"My Kingdom is like a wedding feast..."
(Matthew 22:22)

It's Party Time in the Kingdom of God ...

... **Because our sins are completely** _____

Psychologists tell us that most people practice a process called "repression." They take all their guilt and push it deep inside, and it remains there. Even if they don't remember it, it continues to torture them. This lingering guilt creates "depression."

But, when you surrender to Christ, He cleanses you and makes you into a new creation. Your sins are blotted out, buried in the deepest ocean, remembered no more. Consequently, the guilt is removed and joy returns.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! Old things pass away; behold, all things are new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

...And God wants you to _____ to the party.

Joy is something that must be shared. If you don't share it, you lose it. In fact, many people don't understand that their own joy is contingent upon their ability to communicate God's joy to others.

"This is true religion: to care about the fatherless, the widows, and the afflicted." (James 1:27)

...And even hard times _____ the party.

The joy of the Lord is able to permeate your life even in the midst of hard times. That's what makes it different from "happiness." Happiness depends on what "happens." Joy is what keeps you going even when what is happening is not going well.

"In the midst of all that's going on that messes up your life, God is there with you, and He will bring good out of it." (Romans 8:28 paraphrased)

Even death cannot defeat us ... "Oh, death, where is your sting? Oh, grave, where is your victory? Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory!" (Romans 15:55)