

## WRITTEN IN HEAVEN // Luke 10:17-20

*Morning message from the series, The Gospel of Luke*

In this passage, the seventy-two “returned with joy,” reporting to Jesus that “even the demons were subject to us in your name.” Jesus, however, cautions them to avoid finding their joy in ministry success. Instead, he says, “rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

It is wrong to pursue joy in that which fluctuates outside your control (such as ministry success) because:

1. It will bring confusion about who is responsible for your success. We are not responsible for making ministry successful--only God can do that.
2. It will bring you great trouble as you reflect on success/non-success in your ministry--there is an iceberg of failure below the visible tip of success.
3. It brings you a sinful sorrow and leads to a depressed dark state. Don't concern yourself with success--focus on faithfulness.

If the highest high should not be our joy, neither should the lowest low rob us of our joy. No one can take our joy from us because it is in something that will never fail.

**MAIN POINT OF THE TEXT:** True joy cannot come from success in ministry. It is wrong to pursue joy in that which fluctuates outside of your control.

### Five Reasons Your Name in Heaven Will Bring You Joy on Earth

#### **1. Your name was known before the world was made. (Psalm 139:16, Rev. 13:8)**

God is sovereign--he has ordained all and is master of all.

#### **2. Your name has the personal and legal right of heavenly citizenship. (Phil. 4:3, Phil. 3:20, Heb. 12:23)**

Our citizenship was purchased by Christ.

#### **3. Your name will never be erased from heaven's roll. (Rev. 3:5, Ezekiel 13:6)**

Your name is written in blood-red ink.

#### **4. Your name is not among those who will perish in hell. (Rev. 20:15, 2 Thess. 1:9)**

We should not forget the reality of hell.

#### **5. Your name has been cleaned and cleared by the Lamb himself. (Rev. 21:27)**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does happiness differ from joy?
2. How can we trade the goal of happiness for the pursuit of joy?
3. Do we feel responsible for making our ministries successful? How can a clearer view of God's sovereignty and our heavenly citizenship increase our joy?