

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the frame.

PURSUING PLEASURE

JESUS: THE SOURCE OF A JOY-FILLED LIFE

- 2 WEEKS AGO WE TALKED ABOUT FEAST OF TABERNACLES AND THE 7 DAY FEAST BOUGHT WITH THEIR TITHE**
- JESUS ATTENDED THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES IN JOHN 7**
- JOHN 7:37-39 – JESUS INVITES ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY TO BELIEVE IN HIM, AND OUT OF HIS HEART WILL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER - JOY IS THE OVERFLOW OF THE SOUL THAT FINDS ITS PLEASURE IN GOD**
- LAST WEEK WE LOOKED AT BIBLICAL TITHING – DEUT.14:22F**

JESUS: THE SOURCE OF A JOY-FILLED LIFE

- PS.16:11 - YOU MAKE KNOWN TO ME THE PATH OF LIFE; IN YOUR PRESENCE THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY; AT YOUR RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE.**
- MATT.13:44 - “THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE TREASURE HIDDEN IN A FIELD, WHICH A MAN FOUND AND COVERED UP. THEN IN HIS JOY HE GOES AND SELLS ALL THAT HE HAS AND BUYS THAT FIELD.**
- GOD IS MOST GLORIFIED IN US WHEN WE ARE MOST SATISFIED IN HIM – J.PIPER**

JESUS: THE SOURCE OF A JOY-FILLED LIFE

- **JHN.15:11 - THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU, THAT MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU, AND THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL.**
- **ROM.14:17 - FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT A MATTER OF EATING AND DRINKING BUT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
- **2COR.8:2 - FOR IN A SEVERE TEST OF AFFLICTION, THEIR ABUNDANCE OF JOY AND THEIR EXTREME POVERTY HAVE OVERFLOWED IN A WEALTH OF GENEROSITY ON THEIR PART.**

JESUS: THE SOURCE OF A JOY-FILLED LIFE

- **GAL.5:22 - BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS,**
- **PHIL.4:4-7 - ⁴ REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE. ⁵ LET YOUR REASONABLENESS BE KNOWN TO EVERYONE. THE LORD IS AT HAND; ⁶ DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD. ⁷ AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS.**

5 PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN HEDONISM

- 1. THE LONGING TO BE HAPPY IS A UNIVERSAL HUMAN EXPERIENCE, AND IT IS GOOD, NOT SINFUL.**
- 2. WE SHOULD NEVER TRY TO DENY OR RESIST OUR LONGING TO BE HAPPY, AS THOUGH IT WERE A BAD IMPULSE. INSTEAD WE SHOULD SEEK TO INTENSIFY THIS LONGING AND NOURISH IT WITH WHATEVER WILL PROVIDE THE DEEPEST AND MOST ENDURING SATISFACTION.**

5 PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN HEDONISM

3. THE DEEPEST AND MOST ENDURING HAPPINESS IS FOUND ONLY IN GOD.

4. THE HAPPINESS WE FIND IN GOD REACHES ITS CONSUMMATION WHEN IT EXPANDS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OTHERS BY HELPING THEM FIND THEIR JOY IN CHRIST

5. TO THE EXTENT WE ABANDON THE PURSUIT OF OUR OWN PLEASURE, WE FAIL TO HONOR GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE. OR, TO PUT IT POSITIVELY: THE PURSUIT OF PLEASURE IS A NECESSARY PART OF ALL WORSHIP AND VIRTUE.

PURSUIING OUR JOY – C.S. LEWIS

- **“JOY IS THE SERIOUS BUSINESS OF HEAVEN.”**
- **“I SOMETIMES WONDER IF ALL PLEASURES ARE NOT SUBSTITUTES FOR JOY.”**
- **“IT WOULD SEEM THAT OUR LORD FINDS OUR DESIRES NOT TOO STRONG, BUT TOO WEAK. WE ARE HALF-HEARTED CREATURES, FOOLING ABOUT WITH DRINK AND SEX AND AMBITION WHEN INFINITE JOY IS OFFERED US, LIKE AN IGNORANT CHILD WHO WANTS TO GO ON MAKING MUD PIES IN A SLUM BECAUSE HE CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT IS MEANT BY THE OFFER OF A HOLIDAY AT THE SEA. **WE ARE FAR TOO EASILY PLEASED.**”**

PURSUING OUR JOY

- ARE YOU STILL DRINKING FROM THE MUDDY CISTERNS OF THE EMPTY PROMISES MADE BY THE IDOLS, CULTURE AND OF THIS WORLD?**
- THE ULTIMATE ESSENCE OF EVIL IS TO PREFER ANYTHING TO GOD. WHAT ARE YOU PREFERRING?**
- ARE YOU ATTEMPTING TO FOLLOW JESUS WITH RULES OR RELATIONSHIP?**

PURSUING OUR JOY

- 1. JOY IN RELATIONSHIP BEGINS BY DYING TO SELF. ARE YOU WILLING TO SURRENDER?**
- 2. WHAT PREFERENCES IN YOUR DAILY ROUTINE WILL HAVE TO CHANGE TO PUT CHRIST FIRST?**
- 3. WHEN IS THE BEST TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE 15 MINUTES OF CHAIR TIME EVERYDAY WITH JESUS?**