



Believe

Week 22

Where do you find Joy?

“JOY”

great happiness – feelings of
great happiness or pleasure,
especially of an elevated or
spiritual kind

something that brings
happiness – a pleasurable
aspect of something, or
something that is seen as a
source of happiness

What does the world think makes you joyful or happy?



Let's ask the experts



John D. Rockefeller



*“I have made many
millions, but they have
brought me no
happiness.”*



William Henry Vanderbilt

A railroad magnet
who was the
richest man in the
world at the time
of his death.



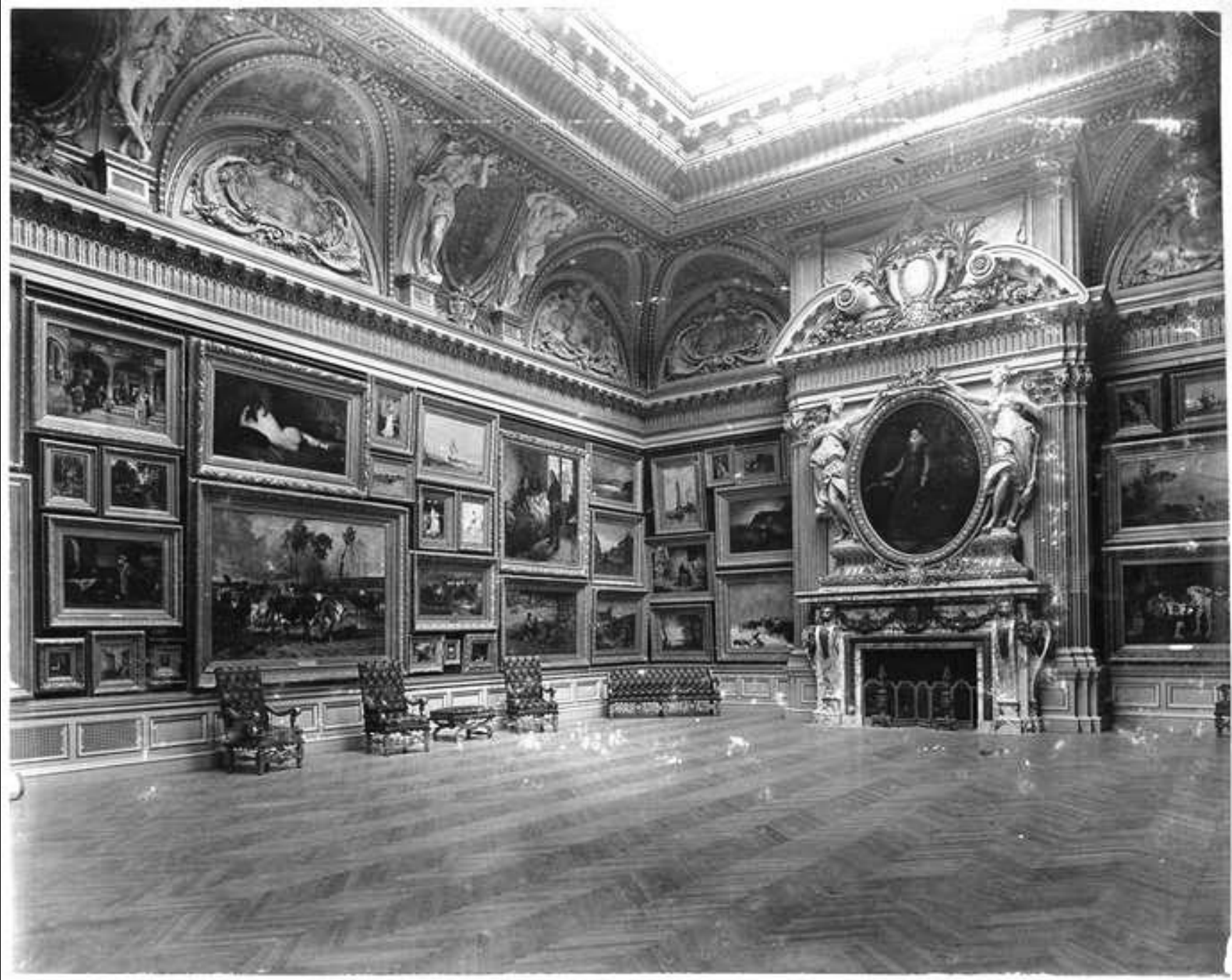
“The care of 200 million dollars is too great a load for any brain or back to bear. It is enough to kill anyone. There is no pleasure in it.”



John Jacob Aster

the first multi-
millionaire in the
United States.





*“I am the most miserable
man on earth”*



Henry Ford

The seventh-wealthiest figure of the modern period (net worth of \$188–199 billion).



*“I was happier when I was
doing a mechanic’s job”*



Adolf Merkle

He was an entrepreneur and one of the richest people in Germany. Net worth 9.2 billion in 2009.

On January 5, 2009 Adolf Merkle quietly put on his coat, told his wife "I have to go to the office for a while", and drove to railroad tracks near his home, where he lay on the frozen tracks and waited patiently for death.



Ecclesiastes 2: 4-11

I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house.

I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart.

I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

I denied myself nothing my eyes
desired;

I refused my heart no
pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my
labor,
and this was the reward for all
my toil.

Yet when I surveyed all that
my hands had done
and what I had toiled to
achieve,
everything was meaningless,
a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under
the sun.

The world is looking in the
wrong place!

The world seeks joy:
by dismissing or eliminating sorrow
by filling their lives with “pleasurable
things”

PROBLEM:
sorrow surrounds everyone and easily
fills our heart, soul, and mind
material/physical “things” only have a
temporal effect

Luke 16: 15 (GNT)

For the things that are
considered of great value by
people are worth nothing in
God's sight.

Can you have Joy in difficult times?

How?

1 CORINTHIANS 4:9-13

For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings.

We are fools for Christ, but you
are so wise in Christ! We are
weak, but you are strong! You
are honored, we are dishonored!
To this very hour we go hungry
and thirsty, we are in rags, we
are brutally treated, we are
homeless.

We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly. We have become the scum of the earth, the garbage of the world—right up to this moment.

Acts 5: 40-42 They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Philippians 2:17 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

But even if I am being poured out
like a drink offering on the sacrifice
and service coming from your faith,
I am glad and rejoice with all of
you. So you too should be glad
and rejoice with me.

James 1: 2-3

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Could you be joyful living in the
situations just described?

How?

In Christ, Joy is not
connected by external
circumstances

Joy springs up from
being connected to the
vine of Christ, even
when surrounded by
thorns!

John 15: 5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15: 11

"I have told you this so that
my joy may be in you and
that your joy may be
complete."

Philippians 4: 12-13

"I know what it is to be in need,
and I know what it is to have
plenty. I have learned the secret
of being content in any and every
situation, whether well fed or
hungry, whether living in plenty or
in want. I can do all this through
him who gives me strength."

Five Reasons to be Joyful
in all circumstances

1. That our Savior has come!

Luke 2: 10-11

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

2. That you found the kingdom of
heaven!

Matthew 13: 44

“The kingdom of heaven is like
treasure hidden in a field. When a
man found it, he hid it again, and
then in his joy went and sold all
he had and bought that field.”

3. That your name is written in
heaven!

Luke 10: 20

“However, do not rejoice that the
spirits submit to you, but **rejoice**
that your names are written in
heaven.”

Look at the perfect example
of finding Joy that your name
is written in heaven when
suffering

Hebrews 12: 1-2

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

4. That you attend Center Christian Church!

Romans 12: 15-16

“Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.
Live in harmony with one another.
Do not be proud, but be willing to
associate with people of low
position. Do not be conceited.”

5. That some who were lost have
been saved!

Luke 15: 7 (NLT)

In the same way, there is more
joy in heaven over one lost
sinner who repents and returns to
God than over ninety-nine others
who are righteous and haven't
strayed away!