

**February 22, 2024**

The Lord wants you to live in His light.

**Phil. 4:4-5** *Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The LORD is near.*

The Greek word for *near* is **engus** which means *nearby, nearer and ready*. The Greek word for *rejoice* is **chairete** *to be full of gladness*. In essence, Paul is telling us to rejoice that the coming of the LORD is nearby, nearer than ever before, and He is ready.

I remember as a young child, when my aunt and uncle would come to visit us. It was so exciting because that meant my cousins would be coming as well. We always had so much fun together and I still look back on those days with a warmth in my heart. When my Mom would tell me that they were coming, I would be so excited and I would keep looking out the front door to see if anyone was coming down our dirt road. And when I could finally see their car in the distance, I would burst out the door and meet the car when it came to a stop. Those were some of my happiest childhood memories. But I know they will pale in comparison to the day that Jesus comes back for His children. What a day, glorious day that will be!

And, because that day is near, how should we respond? We should be rejoicing in the LORD. We should be shouting His name from the roof tops. We should be telling everyone we know how much our LORD loves them!

This world is too full of doom and gloom. Selfishness and chaos run rampant as people are trying to find something that will fill up the hole that is inside of them. Nothing will satisfy except the LORD Jesus. He will fill their heart with His love and give them a hop and a future.

**Dear LORD, help us to rejoice in You. Help us to tell others about Your amazing love and grace. And, help us to rejoice in the fact that You are coming soon - Maranatha. In Jesus Name, Amen**