**12-15-19 Sermon Notes**

**Series: Christmas Wonder**

**Speaker: Ron Ballard**

**Title: Finding Joy in Difficult Times**

**Luke 2:10-11**

10 Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

**Luke 2:10-11**

11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**Psalm 13:5**

I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

**Psalm 35:9**

And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; it shall rejoice in His

salvation.

**James 1:2-4**

2 My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind,

consider it nothing but joy, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; 4 and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

**1. Trials are inevitable, even for believers.**

**James 1:2a** – My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind…

**2. During trials, believers can experience joy.**

**James 1:2b** – My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy.

**3. The testing of our faith produces endurance.**

**James 1:3** – because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

**4. Endurance produces spiritual maturity and Christ-like**

**character.**

**James** **1:4** – and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

**Romans 5:3-4**

3 …we also rejoice in sufferings, knowing that suffering produces

endurance, 4 and endurance, character, and character, hope.

**Philippians 1:6**

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.