



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, October 17, 2021

Office hours are Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00am-3:00pm.

Contact info: office@greenbankcoc.org or 302-994-3800

What is Joy? by Mike Bonner

Joy is a feeling of great pleasure or happiness. Joy was expressed in great ways in the Holy Writ. First of all, Joy is used 59 times in the NT and rejoice is used 74 times. On numerous occasions we find it being used in the OT. During the time of Ezra when the elders saw the foundation of the Temple laid, they shouted aloud with joy (Ezra 3.12-13). The Psalmist understood the meaning of joy in the midst of heartache, he said, “weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning...” (30.5). When the Lord was born to His virgin mother, the glory of the Lord shone around and the angel of the Lord said, “do not be afraid for behold, I bring good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” (Luke 2.9-10).

Friends, are you joyous? Are you aware the joy we should have is not dependent upon the situations and circumstances of and in life? When Jesus was being beaten for sin (which He never committed) the Hebrews writer stated this about His attitude, “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12.2). You see friends, if Christ had joy enduring the scourging and cross, we must muster up the courage and strength to endure to the end.

So, what is hindering us from having the joy the apostle Paul spoke of in Philippians 4.4? He said, “rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice”. Some sixteen (16) times the word “joy” or “rejoice” is used in Philippians. Some people have no idea what true joy is, nor do they have an idea of how to apply it to their lives. The cheerfulness, calm delight, and gladness the Lord desires from us is predicated upon the salvation we have in Christ. Our prayers should be with joy (1.4). Our unity and oneness should be with joy (2.2). Our fellowship is saturated with joy; therefore, we see one another in that way (4.1). Again, Paul realized that his joy came in knowing he had eternal life (Acts 20.24). Shouldn't we rejoice in knowing we have assurance in Christ Jesus leading us to eternal life?

Jesus came that we may have a life filled with joy. This is indeed a life of happiness, which can be had in Christ when abiding by His word (John 16.24). When we understand the power of the gospel, and see people converting to Christ, great joy should be among us and in our congregations (Acts 8.8). If not, why not? So, the next time someone obeys the gospel or rededicates their life to the Lord, let's rejoice knowing what it took for them to make that decision and aid them along the way. Paul told the brethren to rejoice with them that do rejoice... (Rom. 12.15). What a perfect opportunity to grab that brother or sister and rejoice with them for their decision in the Lord (1 Cor. 12.26). It will be through great fellowship that we may be able to rejoice evermore with the new convert or restored brother or sister (1 Thess. 5.16).

We have so much to be thankful for and words cannot express the joy we should have towards God and His Son. Therefore, let's continue to allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit's teaching, knowing the results are going to be fruitful and beneficial for all we come in contact with on a daily basis (Romans 8.2; Gal. 5.16). Remember to remind yourself of the atonement you received at baptism through the blood of Christ and keep thanking God for His blessed salvation that God granted us in Christ (Rom. 5.11). So, the truth about joy is this, we can know that God is for us and we will spend eternity with Him as long as we stay faithful. We can have joy in knowing we have the abundant life and no weapon formed against us shall prosper (Jn. 10.10; Isa. 54.17). May God continue bless us and keep us.

Praise & Prayer Requests

Janet & Jesse Schuhart: grieving the loss of husband and father, Shannon, who lost his fight against Covid.

Tammy Bolden & Faye Gillespie: grieving the loss of their mother & sister.

Judy Barker: recovering from surgery to repair her broken ankle.

Prayer Requests continued:

Gwen Byrd: has Covid-19.

Robin Garvin: scheduled to have surgery on her throat.

Daniel: pray for spiritual restoration.

Shirl Ellis: in the hospital

Marlin Johnson: recovering at home from surgery & infection in his leg.

Bob Reece: home from the hospital; continue to pray for healing and improved health.

Marc Brasefield: deployed to Romania for 10 months.

Connie Hedgepeth: in hospice care.

Christina Steiner: pray she will receive a job offer soon.

Dale Connor & Mark Rector: health concerns.

Greenbank church: Godly guidance for our elders, minister, & deacons as they lead our congregation.

Pray for unity in our country and for our leaders to seek God's wisdom and guidance.

If you have an item for prayer or praise, please email it to office@greenbankcoc.org for inclusion in our weekly list. To view previous prayer requests and those on our ongoing lists, please visit the Weekly Bulletins page on our website www.greenbankcoc.org.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Funeral Service for Shannon Schuhart

A service for Shannon will be held on Saturday, October 23 at 4pm at Salyer Funeral Home, 6327 Church Street, Chincoteague, VA 23336. Guests can begin to arrive at 3:30pm.

A Note from the School Supply Committee

Thank you, again, for your generous donations for our school backpack drive. We want to let you know that you don't have to wait until we ask for school supplies next summer to bring them in. If you see a good sale on common supply items, we encourage you to pick them up. We will accept donations all year long!

Fellowship Committee

We want to grow our Fellowship Committee. If you have a flair for hosting parties and other events, this committee is for you! The holiday season is right around the corner, and we would like to plan some activities in the next few months. If you have any questions, speak with Fern Davis. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board near the blue room. Please add your name to it by October 24th.

Small Groups

Our small group meeting schedules are set.

Bear/Glasgow – 1st & 3rd Sundays, 2:00pm (led by George & Sherry Kirkland)

Ladies Online – 2nd & 4th Sundays, 4:00pm (led by Alethia Jones)

Newport – 2nd & 4th Sundays, 12:30pm (hosted by Mike & Judy Barker). This group is currently full.

North Wilmington – every other Sunday, 3:00pm, next meeting is Oct. 24 (hosted by Eileen Khan)

Singles – every Tuesday, 7:00pm at Greenbank in the blue room (led by Mark daBaldo).

Small groups are known to strengthen the church. All members are encouraged to participate.

GriefShare

Are you struggling with grief following the loss of a loved one? Consider participating in GriefShare. You are welcome to join when the time is right for you. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. via Zoom. There is a \$5 fee for the book. Register for the seminar and/or the regular session here: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/130063>. If you have any questions, contact Judy Barker.

Ladies' Day at Laurel Church of Christ

The Laurel church is hosting a ladies' day on Saturday, October 23rd. Registration is at 9am; the program runs from 10am-2pm. Lunch is provided. The day's theme is "Lord, Don't You Care?" and features guest speaker Tiffany Yeeke Brooks, PhD. Questions should be directed to Ginger Trader 410-543-0000.

Sunday Meeting Times

In-Person Bible Classes for All Ages @ 9:30 a.m. including a Spanish-speakers class (adults).

In-Person Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m. Also streamed online with 3 ways to connect:

- 1) **Facebook Live:** <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>
- 2) **Greenbank Website:** www.greenbankcoc.org Click on the Facebook Live tab on the menu bar at the top of the page. PLEASE NOTE: You do NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the live feed through our website.
- 3) **Phone In:** If you do not have internet access, you can dial in on your phone to connect.
(301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 7PM

In Person – John’s Epistles taught by George Kirkland.

Online – Proverbs taught by Domingo Reyes. Connect as you would for our worship service. (See above.)

3 Ways to Give

We appreciate those who have been able to maintain regular giving.

- 1) **In Person:** You may give your contribution during our Sunday morning worship service, or drop it off at the office on Monday or Wednesday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- 2) **By Mail:** Send your contribution to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808.
- 3) **Online:** PayPal has been set up on our website www.greenbankcoc.org. Click on the “Donate” button and follow the instructions. (Note: there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)

Last Week: Attendance: 99 Contribution: \$4,187 Weekly Average: \$4,920