



Weekly Newsletter – Sunday, December 12, 2021

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

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The Truth About Joy by Mike Bonner (edited)

What is joy? 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 older Israelites 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, saying, “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 the shepherds and the angel of the Lord said, “do not be afraid for behold, I bring good tidings of great joy which will be for all people.” (Luke 2.9-10).

Friends, are you joyous? Are you aware that 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 set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12.2). You see friends, if Christ had joy enduring the scourging and the cross, we must muster up the courage and strength to find our joy and 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.” Sixteen (16) times the word “joy” or “rejoice” is used in Philippians. Some 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. When we understand the power of the gospel, and see people converting to Christ, great joy should be among us and in our congregations. 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 those who 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 our great fellowship that we 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 those we come in contact with on a daily basis (Romans 8.2; Gal. 5.16). Remind yourself of the atonement you received at baptism through the blood of Christ and keep thanking God for His blessed salvation that He 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

Rusty Jordan family: several of them have Covid-19.

Asher Jordan: broke both wrists requiring surgery.

Mia: recovering from heart surgery at DuPont Children's Hospital.

Judy Barker: continue prayers for complete healing of her ankle.

Spanish Ministry: pray for encouragement and growth in this new ministry.

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

Greenbank missions: Westerholm (Mozambique), Borfay (Liberia), Agbeta (Ghana), Camp Manatawny, Reflect Campus Missions/BHC. Pray for a new mission work that reflects the interest of our members.

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 Events

Baptisms

Two young men among our Spanish speakers were baptized last Sunday. We welcome Lincoln Martinez Hernández and Henry Villatoro Moradell to our Greenbank family. We rejoice with the angels in the salvation of these two souls! Please keep Lincoln and Henry in your prayers as they continue to grow in the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Placing Membership

We extend a warm welcome to Kamal & Elisha Wall and Alice Gump who have recently placed membership with us. We look forward to serving the Lord with these new members.

Winterfest

Registration forms and first payment are due next Sunday, December 19. Give them to Lisa Reed. If you are going on the trip and have not picked up a form and payment schedule, please get them today. Do not let the cost of the trip keep your teen from going. Financial assistance is available. See Boyd or Lisa Reed for more information.

Grief Share

The last meeting of our fall session is Monday, Dec. 13. Our Spring session begins March 14 and runs through June 13. Each meeting is held on Zoom from 6:30-8:30pm. To join our next session, register online at www.griefshare.org.

Small Groups

We have five groups that are meeting throughout our area including a singles group and one for ladies that meets virtually. Times and locations are posted on the bulletin board. Small groups are known to strengthen the church. All members are encouraged to participate.

Sunday Meeting Times

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

In-Person Worship Service – English & Spanish @ 10:30 a.m.

The English service is live streamed 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. You do **NOT** need a Facebook account to view the service through our website.
- 3) **Phone In: (301) 715-8592 Enter Meeting ID 889 4601 8992**

BIBLE STUDIES

In Person – Wednesdays @ 7pm – John’s Epistles led by George Kirkland.

Online – Wednesdays @ 7pm – Proverbs led by Domingo Reyes. Connect as you would on Sunday.

Spanish (In-Person)– Thursdays @ 6:30 pm – Contact Domingo Reyes for more information.

Ladies – 2nd Saturday each month @ 11am on Zoom – “A Woman Who Doesn’t Quit” led by Crystal Reyes.

Men – 3rd Saturday each month @ 10am at Greenbank led by Mark Ray.

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: 153 Contribution: \$8,827 Weekly Average: \$4,950