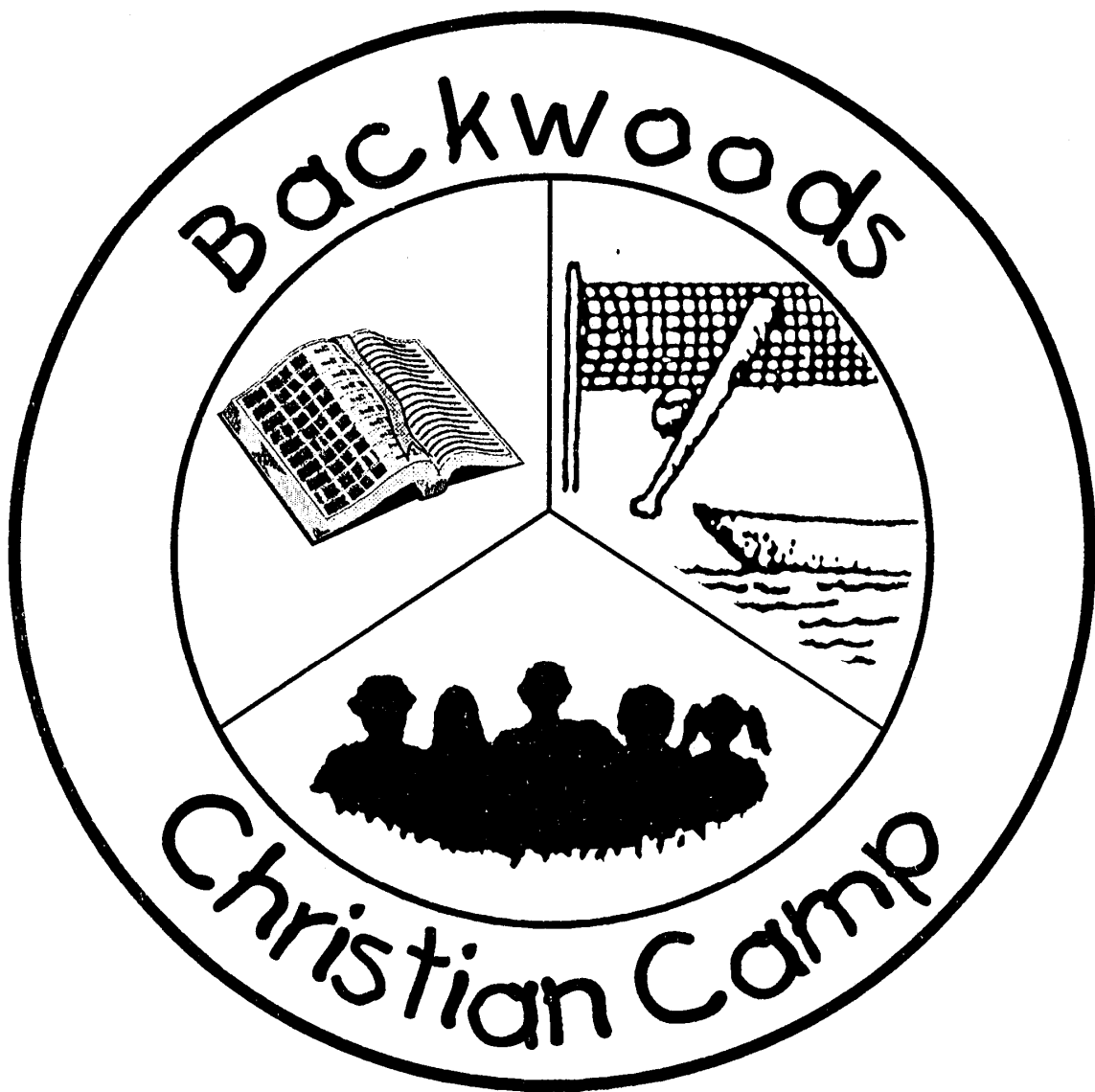


**The JOY
of being a Christian**



July 11-16, 2010

BACKWOODS CHRISTIAN CAMP

1842 Co Rd 222, Lineville, AL 36266

To our Campers,

We hope and pray that this week will be one of the best you have ever had. Our theme for camp this week is “The Joy of Being a Christian.” Did you know that God wants you to have joy and happiness? Many often think that being a Christian is boring and dull. It isn’t. Being a Christian is the happiest life possible! God has provided the way to be joyful. It is through His Son and obedience to His Word. That’s what we will study and learn about this week.

This week will be a joyful time of learning. Learning can be fun. Learning will make you happy. Much of our time together will involve singing, praying and studying God’s Word. It is our desire that you grow spiritually this week. We want you to know what a joy it is to have a faith that is strong and full of assurance.

During our time together this week you will have the opportunity to make new friends and to see old ones. What a joy it is to encourage and exhort one another (Hebrews 10:23-24)!

Heaven is our goal. We know that it is yours as well. We look forward to a great week.

There is no greater joy than knowing what we say and do (Colossians 3:17) pleases our Father in heaven. Because that means we will enter into the joy of heaven (Matthew 25:21, 23). May God bless you this week.

because of our Savior,

Charles Box

Terry Claunch

JOY!

The image features the word "JOY!" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' is replaced by a stylized, smiling face with two small, curved lines above it representing eyes. A thick, grey swoosh underline is positioned beneath the entire word, starting from the left and ending under the exclamation point.

The Joy of Being a Christian

Backwoods Christian Camp

July 11-16, 2010

Sunday

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 2:00-4:00 | Registration |
| 4:00-5:00 | Orientation |
| 5:00-5:45 | Supper |
| 5:45-6:45 | Worship |
| 7:00-8:00 | Get Acquainted |
| 8:15-8:45 | Canteen |
| 9:00-9:15 | Devotional |
| 9:15-9:45 | Prepare for Bed |
| 9:45-9:59 | Cabin Devotional |
| 10:00 | Lights OUT! |

Monday through Thursday

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 7:00 | Wake up | 12:30-1:00 | Rest |
| 7:25 | Devotional | 1:00-4:30 | Sports-Crafts |
| 7:30-8:15 | Breakfast | 4:30-5:00 | Get Ready |
| 8:15-8:45 | Clean up | 5:00-5:45 | Supper |
| 8:45-9:30 | Bible Class | 5:45-6:30 | Worship |
| 9:30-10:00 | Canteen | 6:30-8:30 | Activity |
| 10:00-10:20 | Bible Class | 8:30-9:00 | Canteen |
| 10:20-11:15 | Singing | 9:00-9:15 | Devotional |
| 11:15-11:40 | Bible Reading | 9:15-9:45 | Prepare for bed |
| 11:40-11:50 | Inspection | 9:45-9:59 | Devotional |
| 11:50-12:30 | Lunch | 10:00 | Lights OUT! |

Friday

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 7:00 | Wake up | 8:30-9:15 | Clean up |
| 7:30-7:45 | Devotional | 9:15-10:00 | Awards |
| 7:45-8:30 | Breakfast | 10:10-11:00 | Final Charge |
| | 11:00 | Let's Go HOME | |

Worship—Sunday Night

Song titles:

Sermon title or topic:

Sermon outline and notes:



THE JOY OF WORSHIP

Monday—July 12, 2010

Man is a worshiping being. We will worship someone or something! Worship. What comes to your mind when you hear the word? Worship, strictly speaking, is an act of reverence or honor that is paid to someone who is worthy. God is the ONLY ONE worthy of our worship (Revelation 4:10, 11).

Worship that is not acceptable:

Colossians 2:18
Romans 1:25
Acts 7:42, 43
Matthew 4:9
2 Thessalonians 2:4
Colossians 2:23
Deuteronomy 4:19
Matthew 15:8, 9
Hebrews 11:4
Acts 17:23-25

Why is God worthy of our worship? First, He is the Creator of all things (Psalm 95:6). Second, worship should be offered to God because of His greatness (Isaiah 46:5-11). Next, He is to be worshiped because of His holiness (Revelation 15:4). Fourth, it is “what is due” (1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 29:2) Him. Fifth, He alone is to be worshiped because of His anger and jealousy (Jeremiah 25:6; Exodus 34:14). Finally, worship should be offered to God because we are thankful (Deuteronomy 26:9-11). A Christian, above all others, should be thankful for his blessings. This thankful heart will lead us to joyfully worship the God of heaven.

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalm 122:1). David, the king of Israel, expresses what joy there should be when one worships God. Is there joy and gladness that we are able to worship God? The Father longs for man to worship Him (John 4:23). Before Jesus ascended to heaven the disciples worshiped Him “with great joy” (Luke 24:52). If worship is dull and boring who or what needs to change? One cannot change the truth by which we are to worship (John 4:24). Therefore, it is the heart (spirit-John 4:24) of man that needs to be corrected. May we strive to worship God from a joyful heart.

There is joy in worshipping God in SONG. If there were only one verse that connected joy with singing that would be enough. “...Is any merry [joyful or happy]? Let him sing psalms” (James 5:13). There are many other such verses (Psalm 63:5; 67:4; Job 29:13; Isaiah 65:14). God has created us in such a way that singing allows us to express our emotions. Why not take a look at the songs in the back of this book and see how many teach about joy? One can worship God in song whether he can “carry a tune in a bucket” or not.

There is joy in worshiping God in PRAYER. Life is full of problems (Job 14:1). How often do you face troubles (John 14:1)? Do you ever feel the pressures of life (2 Corinthians 1:8)? What a blessing it is to be a Christian. Regardless if things are going our way or not we have the privilege of prayer. What joy it should bring to our lives to understand that we have a Father who cares for us! We are to be thankful for good things (1 Timothy 4:4, 5). We are to pray in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

Worshiping God in GIVING brings joy. Which brings us more joy, to get something or to give something? Many would answer that we get more joy out of receiving. The Bible says just the opposite! Luke records Jesus as saying, “It is more blessed to give than receive” (Acts 20:35). What does it mean to be blessed? Doesn’t it have the idea of being happy? God wants one to be happy when he gives (2 Corinthians 9:7). God loves a cheerful (joyful) giver. Is that what we are? How blessed we are by God (Philippians 4:19) yet how little we give to Him in return. May we learn to be joyful givers.

The LORD’S SUPPER should bring joy to our lives. The Lord’s Supper is a memorial of the death of our Savior. How can that be thought of as joyful? What would be the condition of man if Jesus had not died? Therefore we do have a reason to be joyful. Jesus’ death was painful without measure. But He was willing to die because of the joy made available to the world (Hebrews 12:2). Partaking of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine allows us to have communion. This fellowship is with God (1 John 1:5-6) and with one another. What joy there is to be in communion with God.

Worship provides joy through STUDYING God’s word together. When a preacher is delivering a sermon he is not the only one worshiping. Everyone should be participating in this act of worship. Do you enJOY listening to lessons from the Bible? Examine these passages from Psalm 119 and see the writer’s love for the Word of God (:97, :113, :119, :127, :159, :163, :165, & :167). If this great love and joy could be found for the Old Testament what greater joy is there to be found in studying and obeying the New Testament (Hebrews 9:11-24).

Conclusion: The joy of worship is solely for the child of God (John 9:31; Proverbs 28:9). How does one become a son or daughter of God (2 Corinthians 6:18)? You must be born into the family of God by 1) faith—John 8:24; 2) repentance—Luke 13:3; 3) confession of Jesus—Romans 10:10; 4) being baptized for the remission of your sins—Galatians 3:26, 27; Acts 2:38.

Worship Word Search

G E U W K M J Y J H E A R T S L D M T O
O V L N T D A X N H L Q Z G J J O J H W
D E N O G E E K W O W H N H H I H L A S
A S S E M B L Y I E I O O T M K P W N N
I N I C Z Q S V C N S N F N X M S H K M
Y R M Q E I Q N W L G P U D O L A J S Y
R O H Y W H E M A P T M J M O R L H G H
I C H E E R F U L G I V E R M I M A I H
K D L R E R T L Z I G O D L Q O S S V G
I Y O V N I V K Q V Y S A E O N C B I N
E L E L R E Y A R P T Y R G V D B S N I
C R L I A Y V C A A Y X A A V U Y K G H
V Q P Y H T K A B T O N E K A S R O F C
S S R T H J R L E A H U W O Q G J Q A A
Q W U U B H E Y W H W O S S X C D G S E
Q R S E H F L A T A X P H O C I B E R R
T N F V U M T H K R I H M N K A T R M P
Q R O Z V E B P S R R M W S R W V Q N V
B B H K O V I L I J Y M T E O B D A J T
B R F V B Y V T Y C F B M H N Y X W L O

ASSEMBLY
CHEERFUL GIVER
COMMUNION
FORSAKE NOT
GOD
HEART
HEAVEN
HONOR
HYMNS
IDOLATRY

LORD'S TABLE
MAKING MELODY
PRAYER
PREACHING
PSALMS
REVERENCE
SPIRIT
SPIRITUAL SONGS
THANKSGIVING
TRUTH

Fun Facts:

- Who were the first recorded worshipers? (Genesis 4)
- What was the place of Jewish worship? (Matthew 24:1)
- When did the Christians meet for worship? (Acts 20:7)
- Where was there a place of prayer? (Acts 16:13)
- Why did Paul wait in Troas seven days? (Acts 20:6)

Timeless Teaching:

- How did Noah build the ark? (Genesis 6:22)
- Why were Nadab and Abihu killed? (Leviticus 10:1-2)
- By what was Moses to prepare the tabernacle? (Hebrews 8:5)
- Was it important that these people obey God?
- Is it important that we follow God's will about worship?

Daily Discussion:

What lessons about worship can be learned from 2 Samuel 24:24?

What was wrong with the Pharisees' worship (Matthew 15:1-9)?

What principles can be gained from John 4:23-24?

Scripture Search:

What verse says that God is “greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints”?

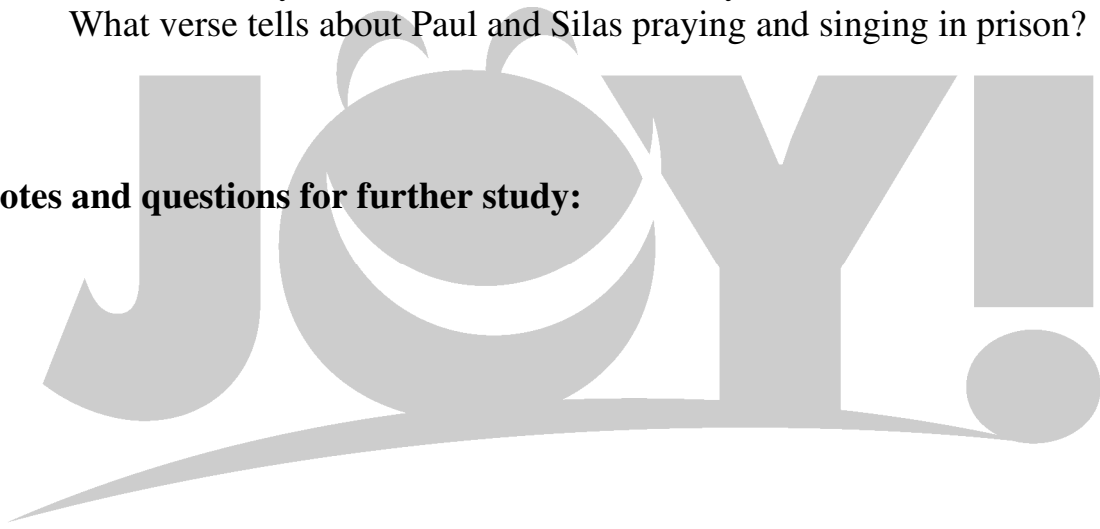
What verse says that we are to “do all in the name of the Lord Jesus”?

What verse tells us that we are to worship “the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve”?

What verse says that covetousness is idolatry?

What verse tells about Paul and Silas praying and singing in prison?

Notes and questions for further study:



Worship—Monday Night

Song titles:

Sermon title or topic:

Sermon outline and notes:





Names & Addresses:



THE JOY OF LIVING

Tuesday—July 13, 2010

Jesus said, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly” (John 10:10). Not only does God desire that we have life but He wants us to have an abundant or joyful life. Life and death are opposites. Spiritual death comes because of living in sin (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 3:7). Life, a joyful life, comes by having your sins forgiven. Paul portrays this in Romans 6:1-4 when he talks about being raised to walk in “newness of life.”

Today’s lesson will have two divisions. The first will teach how to attain the joyful Christian life. The second section will discuss some things that prevent the joy God longs to give.

In order to have a life of joy there must be SACRIFICE. Until one gives his life completely to God there can be no true or lasting joy. Paul wrote, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Because of the sacrifice of Jesus Paul was able to have life. Our bodies are to be given as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1, 2). This joyful life comes from following Christ daily (Luke 9:23). Too many are sad and depressed because of sin. This sadness is a result of the fleeting happiness that sin brings (Hebrews 11:25; 1 John 2:15-17). One cannot live in the world of sin and be happy. Much sadness is in the world today because of a life uncommitted to Jesus.

Life can be full of joy because of SERVICE. JOY. What does it mean? *Jesus* first. *Others* second. *Yourself* last. A life of service means that we put others ahead of ourselves. “*Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord”(Romans 12:10-11). It is impossible to serve two masters (Matthew 6:19-21). We are to serve the God of heaven (Matthew 4:10) and serve Him with joy (Psalm 100:2). Life brings great joy when we are busy serving others.

A joyful life is one that SHINES. Just as you can’t hide a city or a candle (Matthew 5:13-16) neither can you hide a happy Christian. We sometimes sing about if you’re happy then your face will surely show it. Isn’t that true? We have an obligation to shine so that God can be glorified. We are to shine so that

the world will see a difference in us (Philippians 2:15; 1 Peter 2:9). Could it be that some do not have a life of joy because they have allowed Satan to blow out their light?

A life that is SATISFIED brings great joy. I don't have this. I don't have that. We think that joy in life comes from having things. Jesus warned, "a man's life consists not in the abundance of things which he possesses" (Luke 12:15). We are promised that God will provide what we NEED (Matthew 6:33) if we do what we should. Paul ended the book of Philippians talking about contentment and God supplying our needs (Philippians 4:13, 19). Is our life lacking joy because we haven't learned to be satisfied?

Many don't have joy because their faith is SHIPWRECKED. If one wrecks his brand new vehicle will he have joy or sadness? Those mentioned in 1 Timothy 1:19 had taken faith and wrecked it. It was destroyed. There can be no joy or happiness when this occurs. Don't allow the devil to destroy (John 10:10) your faith in God and His word.

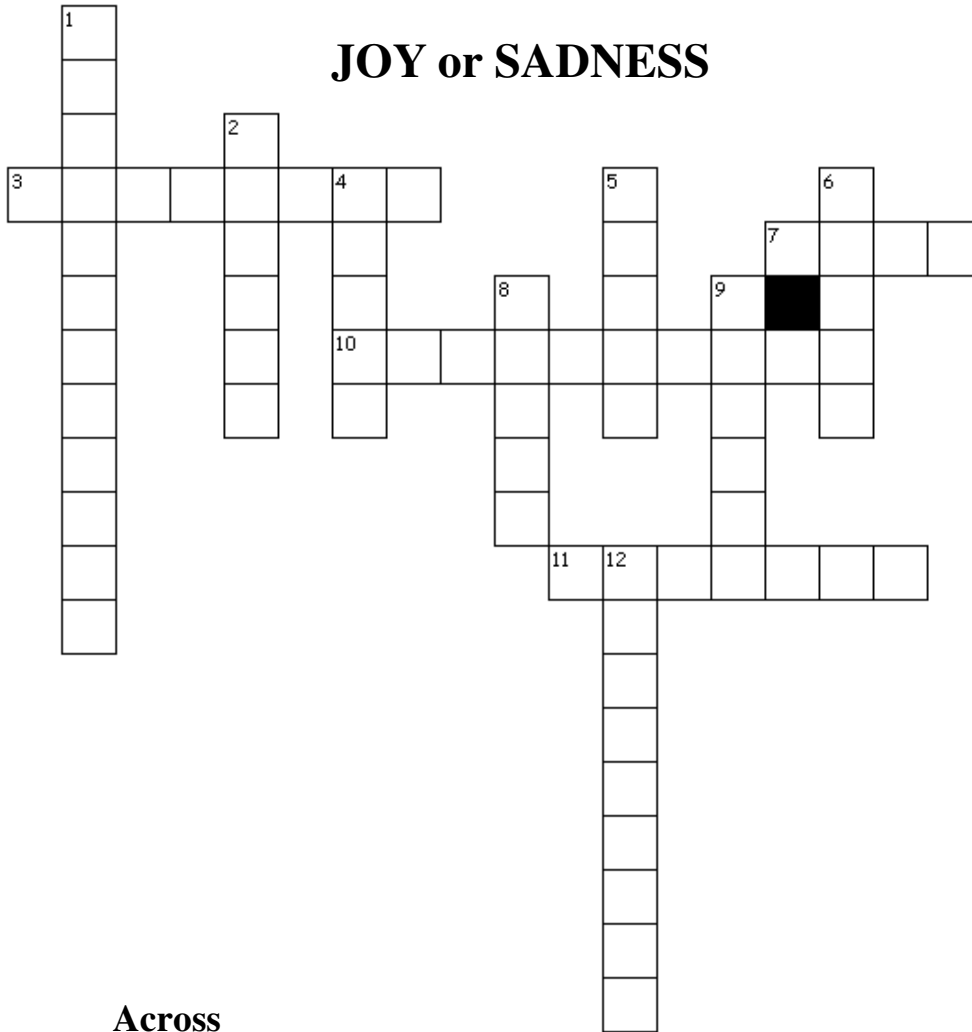
Some have lost their joy because they've been SEDUCED. Adam and Eve lived in Paradise. Everything they needed was supplied. Look how much was lost because Eve was seduced (1 Timothy 2:12). The devil is the great deceiver. He wants to trick people into believing its no fun to serve God. He's wrong. Don't believe him. Don't allow the devil to beguile you (2 Corinthians 11:3).

Others don't have any joy in their life because they are SELFISH. Someone has said, "A person all wrapped up in himself makes a pretty small package." One cannot find joy and happiness when all he thinks of is himself. Jesus, our example, was always thinking of and doing for others (1 Peter 2:21; Acts 10:38). A man was once called a fool because it was all I, me, my and mine (Luke 12:15-20).

The greatest robber of joy is SIN. Sin has brought so much sadness into the world. There is the sadness that comes from disobedience (1 Samuel 15:22, 23). Sadness comes when there is guilt (Romans 2:15). Not being forgiven is a great source of sadness (Jeremiah 8:20). Sadness is a result of not doing what we should (James 4:17). The greatest source of sadness when it comes to sin is the death it creates (James 1:13-15). There is much hurt and pain in the world because of sin. May we strive to resist sin because of the sadness it brings.

Conclusion: Do you desire to happy? The Ethiopian nobleman (Acts 8) was able to go on his way rejoicing. Why? Because he had obeyed the gospel and his sins were forgiven. Do you have sin that needs to be forgiven? If you are not a Christian then you need to believe, repent, confess Jesus, and be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 17:30; Matthew 10:32; 1 Peter 3:21).

JOY or SADNESS



Across

3. Workers of _____ will have to depart (Matthew 7:23)
7. He had joy because people walked in truth (3 John 4)
10. This causes joy in heaven (Luke 15:7)
11. This parable speaks about the joy of the Lord (Matthew 25:21)

Down

1. His way is hard (Proverbs 13:15)
2. He went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39)
4. God will wipe these away (Rev. 21:4)
5. This is what sin causes (James 1:15)
6. He refused the pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:25)
8. He is to be resisted (James 4:7)
9. Those who _____ are counted happy (James 5:11)
12. He made shipwreck the faith (1 Tim.1:19)

Fun Facts:

- Who was the oldest person to live and how long did he live?
- What woman named her child “happy” [Asher] (Genesis 30:13)?
- When will one be happy (John 13:17)?
- Where was Paul when he said he was happy (Acts 26:2)?
- Why would the people be happy (Proverbs 29:18)?

Timeless Teaching:

- How do trust and happiness go together (Proverbs 16:20)?
- List the three “H’s” found in Psalm 146:5.
- What will happen when one gladly receives the word (Acts 2:41)?
- What do beautiful feet proclaim (Romans 10:15)?

Daily Discussion:

- What lessons can be learned from Proverbs 3:13-18?
- How is happiness associated with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)?
- Can a Christian rejoice when bad things are happening (1 Peter 4:13-16)?

Scripture Search:

- Find a verse that shows the apostles rejoicing because they suffered for Jesus’ name.
- What verse tells of joy and gladness at the birth of John?
- Where does Paul tell of his gladness to spend and be spent?

Notes and questions for further study:

Worship—Tuesday Night

Song titles:

Sermon title or topic:

Sermon outline and notes:





JOY!

THE JOY OF TEACHING

Wednesday—July 14, 2010

What is one of the greatest joys in a Christian's life? How would you answer that question? Wasn't it joyful when you obeyed the gospel and became a Christian? Doesn't it bring joy to your heart when you gather with other Christians to worship the God of heaven? One of the greatest joys that a Christian can have is teaching others! "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*" (Psalm 126:5, 6). The Psalmist says that there will be joy in reaping and rejoicing when there is bringing in the sheaves.

First there is a **DUTY** to teach. In order to teach we must go. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). The other accounts of the Great Commission (Mark 16:15, 16; Luke 24:47) emphasize the responsibility that we have to go and teach. Is this command only for preachers? What about the elders and deacons? Isn't the duty of evangelization for all Christians? When every Christian becomes concerned about the lost then more souls can be "added to the church" (Acts 2:47) by the Lord. God "wants all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4). God has given the church the obligation to take the gospel to our world. Paul questioned, "how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard" (Romans 10:14). The point is they can't. We must GO. Listen to what Jesus says about those who want to go to heaven, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me" (John 6:44, 45). May we get busy doing our duty (Luke 17:10).

Next there is the **DESIRE** to teach. Most know that every Christian should be making an attempt to win souls. Why aren't more involved? A lack of desire is behind our failure to teach the lost. "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the laborers *are* few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest"(Matthew 9:36-

39). Paul was a great soul-winner. He wrote, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Romans 10:1). We usually will make time to do what we want to. Where would we be if the person who taught us the gospel did not have a desire to see souls saved? What is God’s desire? He is “not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that ANY should PERISH, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). God’s desire to save will only be accomplished when His people are motivated (2 Corinthians 5:14) to carry the “Word of His grace” (Acts 20:32; Titus 2:11, 12) to a lost and dying world.

Third, we must recognize the DIRECTION of this teaching. If we are to go, where do we go? Someone has rightly pointed out that the go of the Great Commission means that we are to teach as we go. Wherever we go we should be teaching. First, we ought to direct God’s teaching to our own lives (Hebrews 5:12). The Jews were guilty of not doing this (Romans 2:18-21). If we are going to save others and ourselves then we must learn and continue in the doctrine of Jesus (1 Timothy 4:16). Second, we must direct the teaching of God’s Word toward the lost. Jesus came to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). We must try to “save with fear, pulling them out of the fire” (Jude 23). Those who were “scattered abroad, went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). Many make the excuse that they can’t find anyone to teach. The lost are everywhere. They can be found in your relatives, family, friends, schoolmates, fellow-workers, etc. As Jesus said we need to “lift up your eyes, and look upon the fields; for they are white already unto harvest” (John 4:35). Next, the direction of our teaching should be aimed at the wayward. It is sad that they are those who are no longer following Christ faithfully. Should we just leave them alone? NO! They are now just as lost as before. We are to restore that person (Galatians 6:1). “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20). May we become more active in planting the seed into the hearts of men (Luke 8:11; James 1:21; Acts 2:41).

Finally, we see the DELIGHT that comes from teaching. Would a farmer continue to plant if there were not fruit from his labor? He probably wouldn’t. We need not “be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Galatians 6:9). Paul and Apollos worked together in spreading the gospel (1 Corinthians 3:6) but it was God who provided the increase (1 Corinthians 3:9). What a joy it is to see someone be baptized into Christ! Satan has lost the battle for another soul. The blood of Jesus has washed away the sins of another soul (Matthew 26:29; Acts 22:16). How happy you can be that

you've had a part in teaching that person. Truly, one of the greatest joys in a Christian's life is bearing fruit (Proverbs 11:30). You can be wise by winning souls for Jesus.

Teaching Word Search

A S V H V J D N G C O H T E X N S J D T
E F E P Q R R F C R G I Y X N A S X H C
S H T A O E E R L E R H J J L T E R H D
C R T W R L Z H G I Q Z T V Q A N N P O
Q I E U B C S R P B C K A W Z U K Z F F
W H R I R E H S K H Z T X N V G E T F T
T G B O U T F D X K I W D G S H E S Y B
X R N X K O T A C O K O I R W T M H D U
V H V B D N U J N X G H S C H Q S J U C
K U B R Q K O M G G W E C A V Y Y Z T C
V K O R P O R W L J O B I R S L Q D S B
G W A S E Z G I L X I Q P C Y J E H F W
S G B A H B P G H E A R L R S S P V O R
B O F K Z W M K M B D T E J I X Z T N I
G O S P E L G E L E P G S R F Y A R N F
I R W I W V Q W M E L N E E N E T U B V
S R E H C A E T B E H T U L M B A F O J
W Q S V N R A E L Y R J E Y P M R R D G
W O R D O F T R U T H H K R O X B L J G
Z B N B Z Z C J A E Y D I S E B T Z J X

BIBLE
DESIRE
DISCIPLES
FEAR
GOSPEL
HEAR
KNOWLEDGE
LEARN
MEEKNESS
REMEMBER

SALVATION
SEARCH
STUDY
SWORD OF SPIRIT
TAUGHT
TEACHERS
THE WORD
TRUTH
WORD OF TRUTH

Fun Facts:

- Who went everywhere preaching? (Acts 8:1-4)
- What is the power of God to save? (Romans 1:16)
- When should a person obey God? (2 Corinthians 6:2)
- Where are the saved? (Acts 2:47)
- Why is there an urgency to teach? (Hebrews 9:27)

Timeless Teaching:

- Why is man lost? (Isaiah 59:1-2)
- Can man save himself? (Jeremiah 10:23)
- What was the purpose of “the Lamb of God”? (John 1:29)
- Can one be saved without knowing the truth? (John 8:31, 32)
- What are we to teach? (Matthew 28:20)

Daily Discussion:

- Can one teach what he does not know?
- Is there such a thing as false teaching? (1 John 4:1)
- How can we be “ready to give an answer” (1 Peter 3:15) to the questions that may be asked of us?

Scripture Search:

- Locate verses that tell us what saves.
- Find verses that show the importance of the Bible.
- What verse tells us that Jesus taught with authority?
- Find a verse that teaches some will never come to a knowledge of the truth.
- Where is the passage that we are to study to be approved of God?

Worship—Wednesday Night

Song titles:

Sermon title or topic:

Sermon outline and notes:





JOY!

THE JOY OF HEAVEN

Thursday—July 14, 2005

Today we study about the joy of heaven. What place makes you happy? Camp? Home? A vacation? When we go to some places it gives us joy. Heaven will be a place of joy and happiness. We've sung the song this week "Don't You Want to Go to that Land." Why? Because there's "nothing but joy in that land." So don't you want to go? Everyone should have a desire to be there.

Part of the joy of heaven will be that it is ETERNAL (Matthew 25:46). Many enjoy camp. They would like for it to last forever. But tomorrow our week will end. Camp doesn't last forever. One day this world and all that God created will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10). All that will remain is heaven and hell. These two places will eternal. They will not end. What a joy it will be to live eternally with God. The things that bring us joy and happiness in this life are temporary. The joy that we will experience in heaven will be eternal.

Heaven will be a place of joy because we will live in MANSIONS (John 14:1-3). Most of the world doesn't live in what we would consider a mansion. Yet Jesus has gone to prepare for us a place that we really can't comprehend. Even if we do live in a nice home it is nothing compared with heaven!

The joy of heaven is seen in that it is GAIN. "For me to live is Christ, but to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21). Paul knew the value of living for Jesus but he also understood that when death came he would be better off. This is true when one has "laid up treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-21). How many think only of this life and what can be gained now? There is nothing in this world that can provide the joy when we gain heaven.

Heaven will be a place of joy because we will see our SAVIOR. People who are rescued from burning houses, wrecks and such like want to meet the people who saved them. People who don't are selfish and ungrateful. Jesus (Matthew 1:21) has saved us from the worst situation. We were lost in sin. He came to save us. What a joy it will be to meet the One who did for us what we could not do.

There will be great joy in heaven because we will enjoy our INHERITANCE. Upon the death of a loved one many are provided an inheritance. They receive something of value from the one who died. The inheritance for the child of God awaits in heaven. "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that

fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4). Notice what kind of inheritance it is. It is completely different from an earthly one. This one is incorruptible, undefiled and fades not away. It is reserved in heaven.

There will be joy in heaven because there will be no more TEARS. What makes us cry? Isn't usually because we've been hurt. How beautiful is the picture that “God will wipe away all tears” (Revelation 21:4). He will not allow anything to bring hurt into our lives. Instead of things causing us to cry and shed tears there will be joy.

Heaven will be a place of joy because DEATH will be done away with. How often has death taken away a loved one? Death comes to both the young and old. It, like God, is no respecter of persons. But in heaven there will be no funerals to attend. There will be no visits to the graveyard. Jesus provides the “water of life” (Revelation 21:6). Death is the enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26). Jesus has defeated it (Hebrews 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:10). We can also be victorious (1 John 5:4).

We will have joy in heaven because there will be no SORROW. What are things that bring sorrow to this life? Whatever they may be they will be no more. Heaven is a place where sorrow cannot enter its gates. This enemy will not be allowed in. We will have no sorrows in that land of no tomorrows. What joy to have no more sorrows.

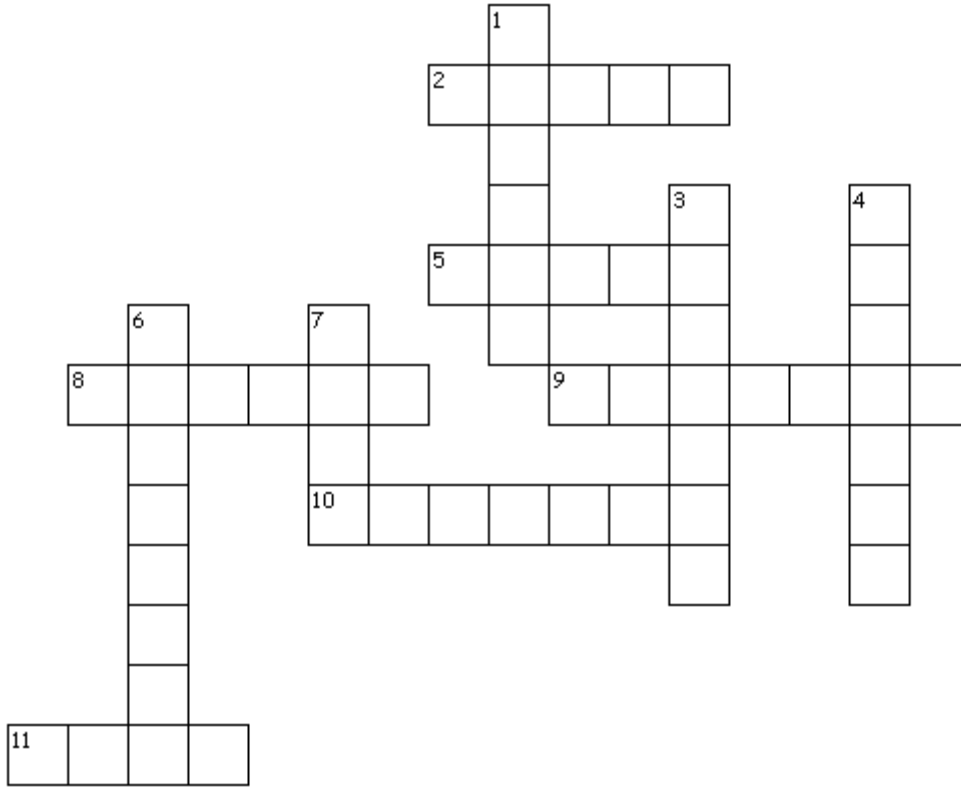
Within that eternal land we will have joy because PAIN will no longer bother us. Pain can be either physical or emotional. Neither will cause us problems within that “city built by God” (Hebrew 11:10). Job said, “Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). He was a man who endured much pain.

Heaven will be full of joy because there will be no more SEPARATION. Tomorrow you will be saying goodbye to friends. You may never see them again. Doesn't this bring sadness? A great joy of heaven is never having to say goodbye. No one will ever be leaving that place. We will dwell together with God for eternity (1 Thessalonians 4:17). “Won't it be wonderful there?” as the song suggests.

If we fail to reach heaven we've truly failed. If we don't go to heaven then our eternal abode will be with the devil and his angels (2 Peter 2:4). That is not what God wants. That is not what we want. God loves you and so do we. You must prepare to go to heaven by becoming a Christian. Do you have faith (Acts 18:8); will you repent of your sins (Acts 17:30); will you confess Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 16:16); will you be baptized to have your sins washed

away (Acts 22:16)? As a child of God is heaven still your goal? If not, then please repent of sin, confess it and allow us to pray for you.

Don't You Want To Go?



Across

2. What God will wipe away (Rev. 21:4)
5. It is the last enemy (1 Cor. 15:25)
8. What all will be when Jesus returns (John 5:28, 29)
9. What Jesus has gone to prepare (John 14:3)
10. It awaits the disobedient (2 Thes. 1:6-8)
11. The place of eternal punishment (Mt. 25:46)

Down

1. It is God's throne (Acts 7:49)
3. What all will be when Jesus returns (1 Cor. 15:52)
4. What we will give (2 Cor. 5:10)
6. What we must be (Rev. 2:10)
7. God will give it (2 Thes. 1:6)

Fun Facts:

If heaven is God's throne what is the earth? (Acts 7:49)

What two men did not have to die?

To what heaven did Paul go? (2 Corinthians 12:2)

Name some people in the Bible who died but were brought back to life.

Timeless Teaching:

Death is certain (Hebrews 9:27)

We will all be judged (2 Corinthians 5:10)

This world is temporary (2 Peter 3:10)

Daily Discussion:

What are some examples we use to try to describe eternity?

What are the only two places of eternal abode?

Discuss the passage of 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Scripture Search:

Find a verse that speaks of Jesus being "from everlasting".

What verse mentions heaven and hell being eternal and everlasting?

Locate a verse that speaks about heaven as a "rest".

Notes and questions for further study:

Worship—Thursday Night

Song titles:

Sermon title or topic:

Sermon outline and notes:





Behold, I bring
you tidings of

**Great
Joy!**

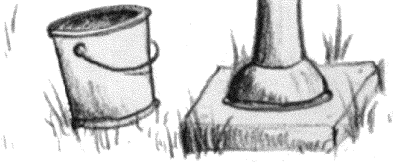
*He will yet fill
your mouth with
laughter
and your
with shouts of
joy.*

Job 8:21



JOY!

With joy
you will draw
water from the
wells of
salvation.



Isaiah 12:3



**A
wise
son
brings joy
to his father...**

Proverbs 10:1

