



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

Volume 11 Number 30

July 11, 2010

SKYVIEW BULLETIN

BE HAPPY



As Christians, we are to be happy. One very popular hymn suggests, "Sing And Be Happy." Many passages in the Bible instruct us to rejoice and be happy. One such verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:16, where Paul wrote: "*Be joyful always.*" This admonition is just as important as many others that we can read in the New Testament.

However, many times Christians fall short in carrying this out in their lives. The lack of joy can be seen often as we go about our daily living. Some walk around looking like they were weaned on a sour pickle. They have long faces, they always have a frown on their face and you know you better not inquire about how they feel. The lack of joy is also seen in how we react to those around us.

This is also carried over into our worship service to God. Often there is a lack of enthusiasm as we sing praises to God. We just go through a formality and mouthing the words of a hymn without really thinking about why we are singing. Boredom in listening to a sermon or Bible class is another indicator of a lack of joy in our worship.

There are probably a number of reasons why people are not happy. Sometimes life gives us lemons and instead of making lemonade we become troubled and sad and unhappy. Life certainly has ups and downs and it seems sometimes like there are more downs than ups. These "downs" get us "down" and it's hard to be happy and joyous when we face problems and trials that bring us grief and heartache.

Another reason many are not joyous is they don't understand the meaning of the word "joy." The most common Greek word, and the word used in the verse quoted above, is "*chara*" and means "joy, delight, gladness" (W.E. Vine). The word is very closely related to the Greek word *charis* which means "grace," and "*charisma*" which means "gift."

There is a relationship, therefore, between a gift and the joy that receiving a gift may bring. This is especially true for Christians when we appreciate the value and magnitude of the gift we have received.

One commentary makes this observation about the word "joy": "*The emotion excited by expectation or acquisition of good.*" (Zondervan Topical Bible). So, joy and happiness can come as a result of realizing how good a gift or expectation really is. The greater value we place on a gift, the greater response of joy we show. For example, if someone gave us a gift of one cent, a penny, we probably would react with a "ho-hum" attitude. A gift of one hundred dollars, may bring about the attitude, "That's really nice." But suppose someone gave us the gift of a new car, or a new house. We would probably respond by saying "Wow! That's really fantastic!" I think we can see how the response or emotion of joy and happiness is in direct proportion to how much value we place upon a gift that is received.

***Another
reason many
are not joyous
is they don't
understand the
meaning of the
word "joy."***

ELDERS

*Ron Bastien
Don Greenlee
Charles Murray
David Roberts*

DEACONS

*Ron Bentz
Frank Edwards
Jim Ingram
George Loyd
Andy Murray
Dennis Trask*

PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

*William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N
PO Box 3118
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

WEB: skyviewchurch.org

Sermons & classes now on
Comcast

**SERMONS & CLASSES
NOW AVAILABLE
ON LINE ON OUR
WEBSITE**

**MAY 2010 BE THE BEST
YEAR EVER!**

As we apply this principle to the joy we should have as Christians we learn some reasons why we should be happy. Think about what God has given us. There is no way we could list all of the blessings that God bestows on as His children. In fact, it might be easier to make a list of things God HAS NOT given us. James reminds us of God's gifts: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). James tells us that God gives good and perfect gifts. Peter also tells us: "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:3-4). There are many other passages which reveal the magnitude of God's blessings, but notice what we learn in these two. 1). Every good and perfect gift comes from God, and 2). God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.

One of the problems we face is we are often influenced by the world's standard of happiness. Television commercials are focused on what the world thinks will make us happy. A new job, a promotion on our present job, a new house, a new car....and on and on the list goes. We are geared to think that happiness is found in material possessions. We sometimes place a greater value on what the world thinks brings happiness than on the gifts God gives us which brings TRUE happiness. Certainly we should rejoice over material gifts and we should be thankful. Every material possession we have came from God. But we must realize that none of these material gifts, even though they come from God, will last. They are temporary.

One of the problems we face is we are often influenced by the world's standard of happiness.

We need to seek happiness in the gifts that God gives that are eternal in nature. There are some verses that might help us to understand how we can be truly joyful. Jesus said, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11-12) John wrote, "We write this to make our joy complete" (1 John 1:4)

Jesus spoke and John wrote about things designed to give us joy and happiness. Jesus talked about "complete" joy. John wrote about joy that was "complete." This "complete" joy is the ultimate happiness. It is happiness that is eternal; that lasts after the material things that may have brought temporary happiness have vanished away.

The ultimate gift that God gives is the gift of salvation. John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son. God gave....God gave a gift....God gave the gift of His Son so that we might believe and have eternal life. When we place the proper value upon this gift, we can be truly happy and filled with joy.

In Ephesians 1, Paul lists some of the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ that bring joy and happiness. He begins by reminding us that every spiritual blessing is in Christ (1:3). In Him we have redemption (1:7), forgiveness of sins (1:7), and in Him we obtain an inheritance (1:11). These are the things that make us truly happy.

We need to delight in the material things God provides for us, but we need to find more joy in the blessings that are found in our salvation. The psalmist penned these words: "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (Psalm 51:12). We may need our joy restored. We may need to re-evaluate our definition of joy and happiness. The prophet Jeremiah expressed joy that is found in the word of God: "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty" (Jeremiah 15:16). Jeremiah said that God's words were his joy and delight because he bore God's name. God's word is still the source of delight today because we can bear the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Are you happy? Are you really happy? Do you have a joy that enables you to rejoice always in ever situation and circumstance of life? You can have that joy by being in Christ. How do we get into Christ? Galatians 3:27 tells us: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." We are told that we are baptized into Christ. Once we have been baptized into Christ we have access to all of the spiritual blessings that are found in Him (Ephesians 1:3) which includes redemption, forgiveness of sins, and assurance of an eternal inheritance (Ephesians 1:7,11). Why not accept God's gift of salvation by obeying His words?



Adult
Auditorium
New class
beginning in
January:
The Life Of Christ

GOD'S
PLAN OF SALVATION
Believe—Heb. 11:6
Repent—Luke 13:3
Confess—Rom. 10:9
Be Baptized—
Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,
1 Pet. 3:21