

Pastor's Pen

Do you have joy?

"The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish." Proverbs 10:28

What is it that comes to mind when you read the word joy? Do the words happiness, pleasure, delight, or contented come to mind? The world's concept of joy is certainly different than a Biblical worldview. The unsaved are always looking for the next activity, possession, or person to bring happiness to their lives, which should not be the case for followers of Christ.

Paul's letter to the church in Philippi is referred to as the "Epistle of Joy". The late R C Sproul wrote the following about the letter to the Philippians:

"Philippians is one of my favorite epistles of the Apostle Paul, and it is called in church history 'the epistle of joy.' Because again and again in this letter, Paul speaks of his own joy, which is infectious, and he then encourages the people at Philippi to participate in the joy that Paul is experiencing—and that while he is writing to them from imprisonment! And he said, 'I rejoice; therefore, you rejoice as well.' And Paul, at that time, is anticipating the possibility of his own imminent demise, but he looks forward to the future with joyous anticipation. And this is a theme, of course, that's not found merely in the Philippian correspondence, but it's found throughout the writings of the Apostle. And so frequent is this motif of joy that I think it is safe to say that this fruit of the Holy Spirit is something that should be evidenced and manifest to some significant degree in every true Christian's life."

Even while Paul was imprisoned, he understood that his circumstances did not hinder his joy, and he retained a steadfast hope that someday he would depart this life and be with Jesus (Philippians 1:20–21). Every true believer will experience trials,' but James tells us, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds." And Peter assures us that God "has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Believers rejoice because we have endless hope, but Solomon observes that the wicked have a hopeless end. Eventually, those who reject God will find themselves lost and eternally separated from God (Matthew 16:26). The world's joy is temporary, while a Christian joy is forever.

I heard a speaker say, "The only heaven an unbeliever will ever experience in this life now, and the only hell a believer will have to endure is this life now."

"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."
1 Peter 5:10

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"I do not think the church rejoices enough.
We all grumble enough and groan enough:
but very few of us rejoice enough."

-Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

A weeping creature- (Thomas Watson, "Harmless as Doves")

"Open to Me, My sister, My darling, My dove, My flawless one." Song of Songs 5:2

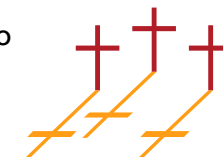
Christ calls His spouse His "dove". The dove is a weeping creature. Grace dissolves and liquefies the soul, causing a spiritual thaw. The sorrow of the heart, runs out at the eye.

A godly heart grieves that it is not more holy. It troubles him that he falls short of the rule and standard which God has set. "I should", he says, "love the Lord with all my heart. But how defective my love is! How far short I come of what I should be, no, of what I might have been!"

A godly man sometimes weeps out of the sense of God's love. Gold is the finest and most solid of all the metals, yet it is soonest melted in the fire. Gracious hearts, which are golden hearts—are the soonest melted into tears, by the fire of God's love.

A godly person weeps because the sins he commits are in some sense worse than the sins of other men. The sin of a justified person is very odious, because it is a sin of unkindness. Peter's denying of Christ was a sin against love. Christ had enrolled him among the apostles. He had taken him up into the Mount and shown him the glory of heaven in a vision. Yet after all this mercy, it was base ingratitude that he should deny Christ. This made him go out and 'weep bitterly.' He baptized himself, as it were, in his own tears.

The sins of the godly, go nearest to God's heart.
The sins of the wicked—anger the Lord.
The godly man's sins—grieve Him.
The sins of the wicked—pierce Christ's side.
The sins of the godly—wound His heart.
How far from being godly—are those who scarcely ever shed a tear for sin!



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

Old Testament
New Testament
Young Parents
Young Adults
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
Every other Saturday:
Women of Grace/9am



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's
Every other Thursday @7PM
@ Patrick's & Cox's



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study
AWANA @6:30 starting 9/15/21



Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @10:30AM

Giving from service on 09/19/2021

General Offering	8,034.60
Building Fund	345.60
Uganda	100.00
Benevolence	150.00
Total	\$8,630.20

Attendance	172
Sunday School	109
Online	14

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Sept 26, 2021

