

Pastor's Pen

Rejoice!

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
Philippians 4:4**

Pastor Cal introduced to us a new song a couple of weeks ago called Rejoice. If you have not done so, I will encourage you to read the lyrics and play the song. Towards the end of the song, we find the following verses,

"All our sickness, all our sorrow Jesus carried up the hill, He has walked this path before us He is walking with us still. Turning tragedy to triumph Turning agony to praise. There is blessing in the battle So take heart and stand amazed. Rejoice. When you cry to Him He hears your voice. He will wipe away your tears, Rejoice. In the midst of suffering He will help you sing"

Paul writes to the Philippians and to us to rejoice in the Lord always. You might be thinking that God can't really mean that I am to rejoice when I am suffering or hurting or when things don't go as expected. That is precisely what He commands us to do. Our circumstances and feelings should never stop us from rejoicing, praying, giving thanks, showing respect, or acting kindly.

Paul practiced what he preached. When he wrote to the Philippians, he was in prison in Rome, and he didn't allow his circumstances to dictate his obedience to Christ. Even though he was shackled, Paul rejoiced in the Lord. Paul wrote this letter nearly 30 years after he came to Christ. During those thirty years, he had experienced the following:

"Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city,

danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches."
2 Corinthians 11:24-28

If anyone had a reason not to rejoice always, it was Paul. However, he did not allow his circumstances to control his rejoicing in the Lord. Everyone who belongs to Christ can rejoice in all situations because the same Holy Spirit that lived in Paul lives in you. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). If we yield our wants and desires to God, if we are obedient to His commands, the Holy Spirit of God will strengthen you to be able to rejoice always.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"The validity of our confession of Jesus Christ's lordship and of our conversion is evidenced by our obedience to the Father's will."
— Paul David Washer

Grace Gems

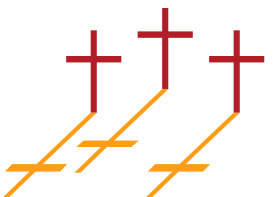
Believer, what are you doing, going groaning through the world beneath a load of fears and cares?
(Thomas Guthrie, 1803-1873)

**"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."
Matthew 10:29-31**

There is no such thing as chance. All the reins that guide and govern the world are gathered into the hands of Jesus. His care of His people extends to the most common, minute, and apparently trivial matters—all are links in the golden chain of providence. Divine Providence is a comforting doctrine, too precious to be parted with! Let the thought that Jesus . . . watches over all your affairs, and guards your welfare, and guides all your ways—banish your every anxious care. I do not say that you will never be disappointed, but certainly you ought never to be discontented. Many things in your circumstances may occasion anxious thought, but nothing should occasion or can excuse sinful repining.

Child of God! He has numbered the hairs of your head, as well as the stars of Heaven!

Believer, what are you doing, going groaning through the world beneath a load of fears and cares? What should discourage you? What should disturb your peace? What can ruffle the calm spirit of a man who knows that the hands which were once nailed to the tree for him, now hold the helm of his destiny? The blessed Savior, who by love's golden scepter reigns within his heart, holds sovereign sway over earth and Heaven; and . . . by both bitter and sweet providences, by both coffins and cradles, by both disappointments and joys, by both losses and gains, shall cause all things to work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose.



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

New Testament
Sunday School
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study



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 @6:30PM-8PM



Service Times

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

Giving from service on 03/07/2021

General Offering10,073.67
Building Fund 1,090.60
Uganda 300.00

Total \$11,464.27

Attendance175
Online.....19

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
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Mar 14, 2021

