

The Church of Christ @ Fremont

3361 W. State Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Worship Services

Sunday Bible Study 10:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Classes for all ages

Preachers: Ted Bowen and Sean Rizer

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Learn the truth (Hear) (John 8:32; 17:17; Rom 10:14-18)
2. Believe in Christ (John 8:24; 20:31; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:9,10)
4. Confess faith in Christ (Rom 10:10; Acts 17:30; Matt 16:16)
5. Be baptized into Christ for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
6. Live faithfully (Revelation 2:10)

7 THINGS TO REMEMBER DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER!

- 1 LORD. "There is one Lord." (Ephesians 4:5)
- 2 THIEVES. "There were also 2 others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death."
(Luke 23:32)
- 3 CROSSES. (Luke 23:39-43)
- 4 PARTS of HIS GARMENTS. "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier, a part, and also the tunic." (John 19:23)
- 5 WOUNDS. His back was scourged. His head was crowned with thorns.
His hands were pierced. His feet were pierced. His side was cut open. (John 19:1-2, 34 Psalm 22:16)
- 6 HOURS of AGONY. Christ was crucified at the 3rd hour and died at the 9th hour.
(Mark 15:25-37)
- 7 SAYINGS of The CROSS. (Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34, 43-46; John 19:26-30)

September 17, 2023

Songs & Lord's Supper :

Melvin Monroe

Speaker: Sean Rizer

Wednesday Bible Study

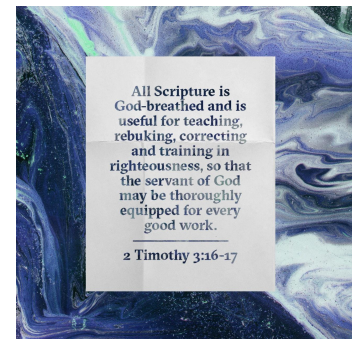
Invitation: Ted Bowen

Birthdays

8 Connie Runion
19 Melvin Monroe
24 Sandra Foos

Prayer List

Gen Stanley
Jean Adkins
Betty Davis
Connie Runion
Mack Stanley
Tina Smith
Ted Bowen



FINDING JOY

T. Sean Sullivan

Introduction:

There is a difference between "being happy" and "having joy". Happy is great and you should have as many moments of "happiness" as you can. Joy, however, is greater because unlike "happy" it is much more enduring. Jesus was not "happy" to face the cross (Matthew 26:39), but He did it for the "joy that we set before Him". Paul and Silas were certainly not "happy" in the Philippian jail, but for joy, they sang and prayed

(Acts 16:25). When we face difficult situations in life, we too can have a mindset of immovable joy (1 Peter 1:6-9). True joy makes a big difference in our life and our influence.

To find joy, you must be looking for the right thing. Again, do not confuse momentary fleeting happiness with true joy. The things we will consider in this lesson are not what everyone looks for, nor are they what everyone is satisfied with. However, if you find your joy in these things it will be yours to eternity. Let's open the Bible and search out the secret of finding joy.

Look to Jesus, for Joy

In today's world, joy is widely marketed but seldom sold. Worldly pleasures entangle many souls both young and old (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21)-lustful pleasures do not bring joy. The pursuit of riches has also consumed many (1 Timothy 6:9-10)-greed is not joy. The elevation of self takes away the hope of joy (Matthew 16:24)-arrogance is not joy either. The "higher knowledge" of man is just not high enough (Colossians 2:8)-if mankind could find their own way to joy, we would have.

Our hope for true joy has one source: Jesus. All that He has accomplished, and continues to do, for us is for our ultimate joy. His earthly life was purposed to bring joy (Luke 2:9-11). His sacrifice was to bring us into the joy of salvation (1 Peter 1:6-9). His word is given to bring joy-not only joy but "full joy" (John 15:11). Knowing that Jesus is the source of joy is not enough. We also need to know what separates us from the joy He offers, what is between you and Jesus?

Gain the Joy of Jesus

In the pursuit of "Jesus", man has dreamed up so many strange conclusions. Everything from ritual rites to a scripted prayer, to "Jesus loves and accepts you, no matter what you do or refuse to do". By seeking answers from men's doctrines, we will never know the truth; we must refuse the noise and get back to the word of God (John 8:31-32). We must not listen to men as our source of truth-even ones we know and trust. Even the apostles encouraged verification of their teaching (Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21). Do not hand your soul over to anyone else's opinions-see God's advice (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Joy is tied to hope, and hope is tied to truth. The truth can be known but it takes effort (2 Timothy 2:15). It takes time (1 Timothy 4:13, 15-16), and it takes focus (John 8:31-32). Once the truth is discovered, it must be obeyed. We must hear the word and do the word (James 1:17-25). We must keep the commandments (John 14:15). There is no hope for those who have faith, but refuse to do what God requires (James 2:14-17). When we apply the truth to our lives, we will know its hope, resulting in what we are looking for-joy.

Allow Yourself to be Joyful

To embrace the joy that is available to us, we must refuse to continue under our own cloud. Far too many are convinced that they are not important enough for, or deserving of, joy. Some have developed this deep-down belief that it is their personal destiny to be disappointed by life and they will never be joyful. Some even believe that joy is not an actual state, but is only a front put on for others.

In order to find, gain, and maintain joy, we need to understand some true things about ourselves and God. God believes you are worthy of joy and instructs us in its achievement. God has seen fit to offer the opportunity of joy to us (Romans 8:31-39). In John's gospel three times Jesus stated concern for our joy and that our joy would be full (John 15:11; 16:22; 16:24). Later, in his first epistle, John records God's words stating that the purpose of his writing was to encourage their "joy" to be "full" (1 John 1:4).

To know true joy, you must accept the truth of God about yourself and the joy that is available every day in God's word.

Conclusion:

Obedience is all that separates us from Jesus and the joy that He offers. The hope of our joy in the days ahead is wrapped up in John 15:11, where Jesus says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

So, what are "these things"? Look at John 15:10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." Jesus reveals the secret of true joy that has been obscured by centuries of false doctrines and men's pursuit of self-importance. True joy, to its fullest extent, is in knowing the joy of Jesus-through our obedience to His commands.

The only thing that separates you from Jesus is obedience. To opportunity to obey His gospel plan, is yours. What is holding you back from His joy? The right time to obey is right now.

FORGIVING AS GOD FORGIVES

by David A Cox

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors ... For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:12, 14-15).

Forgiveness is not the natural way for a man to react. "I will forgive, but I won't forget" seems to be the motto lived by so many. Perhaps this is why Jesus, early in his ministry, dealt with the subject of forgiveness in the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus, giving an example of prayer for his disciples, said, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Jesus gives this instruction because men will not be forgiven if they do not forgive. Jesus makes that point very clear: one who does not forgive will not be forgiven by God.

What Does It Mean to Forgive?

Many believe that forgiveness is merely a ceasing of hostile actions toward another. Often there is a willingness to place the one that committed a wrong on probation, but not a full restoration as if nothing ever happened. To truly understand forgiveness, we must see how God does it. When God forgives sin:

1. He pardons our sins. He removes the very thought of the transgression from Him (Heb. 10:17). An example of this is in Luke 15. The main character in this parable, the forgiving father, is a picture of God. The father receives the son who had sinned against him and was not worthy to be called his son. As the son returns to the father the text reads, "But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry" (Luke 15:20-24).

2. He treats us just as if sin never happened. In Luke 15, the father forgave the son and restored him to the position he had left. The best robe was put on him; the ring was placed on his finger, and shoes on his feet. This son wanted to be a servant, but the father wanted him back as his son; with forgiveness, that is possible.

Without a doubt, God is seen receiving us back into his love, favor, and fellowship unconditionally. God greatly loves us and patiently waits for us to repent so He can show us His great mercy.

Having a Heart of Forgiveness

Forgiving is a difficult thing to do, but we must learn to do so. We must develop a heart for forgiveness. When you examine the word "forgive," you will see the word "give." The word "give" is vital when it comes to having a heart of forgiveness. We must give before we can forgive.

We must give up pride, the delusion that we are always right, and always having our way. Until we can give up these things, we cannot forgive as we should. We may call it forgiveness, but there will always be expectations beyond the contrite heart that we will expect. We must learn that we cannot control the lives of people and everything around us. We must allow others to make choices in their lives and for their lives. We must let God control us and let the Word work through us and into the lives of those around us. The heart of forgiveness must always possess the willingness to forgive. Remember, Jesus taught his disciples not to forgive until "seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:22).

May we work to develop a heart that is tender and genuinely forgives as God forgives.

SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

Kyle Campbell

Discernment is perception with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding. It's a deeper awareness achieved by learning how to apply knowledge from the Scriptures. True discernment means being able to distinguish the right from the wrong; it means distinguishing the primary from the secondary, the essential from the indifferent, and the permanent from the transient. And, yes, it means distinguishing between the good and the better, and even between the better and the best.

While there's much that can be done through the collective fellowship of the church to stimulate and encourage spiritual discernment (Hebrews 10:24), developing discernment is an individual commitment. George Eliot wrote, "The strongest principle of growth lies in human choice". This means that you have to examine yourself (2 Corinthians 13:5) and train yourself (Hebrews 5:14). Additionally, discernment is forged, not in the classroom, but in the good and bad circumstances of life.

Paul commanded the Philippians to "abound more and more in all knowledge and discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent" (Philippians 1:9-10). Discernment helps us order our priorities, handle the trials and temptations of life, and protect us from Satan. Therefore, discernment will always boil down to making spiritually appropriate decisions and then (most importantly) applying them as you walk in Christ's calling (Ephesians 4:1).