

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 Rizor

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; Ephesians 1:7)
- 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 head was crowned with thorns. His back was scourged.
His side was cut open. His hands were pierced. His feet were pierced. (John 19-20)
- 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 18, 2022

Songs: Melvin Monroe

Lord's Supper: Tony Smith

Speaker: Sean Rizor

Wednesday Bible Study

Invitation: Ted Bowen

Birthday

8 Connie Runion
19 Melvin Monroe
24 Sandra Foes

Anniversaries

4 Mike & Janet Baker

Prayer List

Gen Stanley
Jean Adkins
Tina Smith
Betty Davis
Kathy Foes
Mack Stanley
Jacob Runion
Connie Runion

FINDING JOY IN LIFE by T. Sean Sullivan

Introduction:

Is there a secret to finding joy? A scheme or plan that will result in factors so grand? It is easy to see that joy is good and positive. The energy invested in such a pursuit is returned tenfold in quality of life.

So is there a way in which we can gather joy in our life? Jesus spoke of joy and the fullness of joy in John 15 where He related it directly to the keeping of God's commandments (John 15:7-11). This is often a rejected notion seeing how our culture has tried to find joy, not through the obedience to rules but rather the removal of rules. Those that are most greatly influenced by the world are the young and the spiritually immature-that is not necessarily the same category.

What can we do to encourage the young and the spiritually immature to take hold of what God has provided? Do the same thing that Jesus did express the joy that is found in this effort.

So what do we know about "joy" that we can explain? Let's consider three basic points about "joy" that need to know and we need to share.

Joy is not found away from God.

It is an idea of a young mind that one rebels against their parents. A mind with the ability to think and know but mistakenly thinks that they know better. This same mindset can come into our relationship with God. Jesus spoke about this scenario in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24). In the eagerness of youth, this young man went looking for happiness. His mindset was perhaps: My parents are just trying to keep me away from the true fun of life--far away from all that he ever knew, had to be better. What was not understood was the efforts made by his family were the foundation of his life and without them there just wasn't any substance. He finally came to himself and returned--why should we waste our time by repeating this same experiment? Joy is with God.

Solomon tested all that the world offers: all the vain pleasures of life (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11).

In the gathering of strength, power, riches, or fame, he found no true satisfaction. At the end of his search, he concludes all that he tested this way, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all [purpose ~tss]" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Again there is no wisdom in repeating this experiment save yourself the frustration, find God and stay with God (Acts 17:27).

Joy is found in Full Commitment

Your commitment to Christ will affect every part of your life. True happiness and contentment are not found in a partial commitment--in fact, playing both sides of the fence will make us miserable and joy will not be known. Unless we are fully committed, we are missing out on the benefits. The benefits are clear: Direction, which you need (Jeremiah 10:23; John 14:6). The Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 1:3 tells us our direction from God, is "all things that pertain to life and godliness". Those in Christ know where they came from and know where they are going. Another benefit is constant support from God who cares (1 Peter 5:7). God takes care of those who love Him (Proverbs 18:10; Romans 8:31-39). But we also have the support of our brethren who care and who need you as much as you need them (Romans 12:1-15).

What type of commitment does God require? Complete commitment! The Apostle Paul is a good example when he depicts his commitment this way, "No longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). We must choose who we serve, we cannot serve God and the world. Either God or the world; you cannot have both (Matthew 6:24). We must set our minds on the goal. We will never know the true joy of serving God if we do not find this level of commitment. We must put Him first (Matthew 6:33). We must do His will (Matthew 7:21-23). We must remain faithful to Him all the way (Hebrews 10:35-39).

True Joy Will Always Grow

Many things diminish over time--our joy in the Lord will not be one of those things. Spiritual maturing is a life-long endeavor; we should always increase in the things that cause joy: The study of God's word (John 15:10-11; 1 John 1:4). Our prayers (Philippians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:18). Our relationship with our brethren (Philippians 4:1). Our eager expectation--anticipation (1 Timothy 4:8).

As we grow in joy, we become more of what we should be: To God (Hebrews 11:6--our faith pleases Him). To our Brethren (Romans 12:9-15; Hebrews 10:24-25--our care causes them to flourish). Even to our fellow man (Mark 16:15-16--we will offer them hope with greater confidence).

Conclusion:

The world may not understand why we seek the Lord in hope that we might find Him (Acts 17:27). But then they also fail to understand the joy that we have in this pursuit.

Your joy is important to God, and God desires to have rejoicing in His presence. Luke 15:10 declares that there is rejoicing in Heaven over the repentance of sinners. When those who are separated from God determine to return to Him the Heavenly host rejoices.

Today we want to rejoice with them. You have waited long enough. There is no true joy apart from God. Come to God today, through His Son, Jesus, the Christ. Let us all determine to know true joy today.