

TRUE JOY

During all the hustle and bustle of the holiday shopping season, if you are out in the crowds of all the shoppers, you might notice something quite ironic. With all the people cutting line with armloads of things and people fighting over the last big screen tv, if you look in a decoration section, you will probably see one. It is not the most exciting decoration maybe, and it can be written in different fonts, but chances are you will see a table or mantle decoration that simply spells **JOY**. Now what makes this decoration ironic? Well with our society bent on the pursuit of pleasure rather than truth, much of the world has become completely lost to what true joy actually is. Even as New Testament Christians, we must be alert and ready to distinguish between joy and sinful indulgence. After all, we would not be tempted to sin if there was no pleasure in it. And, just like those stacks of toys and Christmas gifts, the pleasures of sin come at a high cost. **Romans 6:23** tells us that “the wages of sin is death,” and that fleeting enjoyment that we gain from committing it will soon be over.

As followers of Christ, we must make it our duty to avoid making worldly pleasure our purpose in life and instead learning to find joy in serving the Lord. The question is, do our lives give evidence of the presence of joy in Christian service? Do people see us as happy and joyful people? If not, this would easily explain our lack of effectively reaching out to others. After all, the Gospel of Christ is GOOD News!!! Paul also says in **Philippians 4:4-5**, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.” We even read in **Galatians 5:22** that the fruit of the Spirit includes joy. If there is no joy in Christ, then where is the fruitful growth?

What many do not seem to realize is that joy is a byproduct of our own relationship with Christ, and we must spend more time in His presence in order to help it grow. **Psalms 16:11** says, “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” If the fullness of God’s joy is not being reflected in your life, then what does that say about your presence? Paul also says in **Ephesians 1:3**, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ


with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.” The joy found as a Christian is a spiritual blessing, so one must be “in Christ” to experience true joy. If we simply stay on the outside, looking in, then true joy can never be attained.

Joy is the result of following God’s plan. It is a characteristic of life that pushes past our own interests and personal comfort zones and seeks out the needs of others. Paul said in **Philippians 2:2-4**, “complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” We are also reminded, over and over, by both Jesus’ teachings and examples that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” (**Acts 20:35**) By following this plan set before us, we are able to see a true joy that we can only receive in Christ. And that joy begins to grow by the common unity of love we have for one another in Christ, which is secured by our hope of heaven, a place of eternal joy in the presence of our Heavenly Father. It is the hope of our names written in heaven in which we can truly rejoice, each and every day.

(**Luke 10:17-20**)
 When I think of what it means to put aside the pursuit of worldly pleasures and seek out true joy that can only be found in God, I am reminded of Solomon. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon explains how he worked and struggled in every which way to find the whole meaning of life. So many of those paths ended in vain. Solomon finally concluded in **Ecclesiastes 12:13**, “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” This is the ultimate key to finding joy in life, realizing that our purpose in life is to seek God and please Him. (**Acts 17:27**) Do you want true joy in life? Seek God first. Through His guidance, you will learn to tell the difference between sinful, selfish indulgence and true pleasure. Then get to work serving God and following what He has said. The gift of joy isn’t bought in a store. It was bought for us on the cross at Calvary.

Andrew Spivey

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES
Sunday Read – Matthew 3 & 4:1-11
Wednesday Read – John 1:29-51

- Questions for last week's reading of; 
Matthew 2:1-2; 2:13-23 & Luke 2:21-38; 2:39-52
 Questions:
 1. Who was in the temple when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus for the sacrifice?
 2. Who came to see Jesus as a young child, and what gifts did they bring?
 3. What feast did Joseph, Mary, and Jesus attend in Jerusalem, and what did it mean?
 4. Why did Joseph and Mary find Jesus in the temple when they returned to Jerusalem?
 5. In what ways did Jesus grow, and what does each area of growth mean?

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * 4:15 Singing class every Sunday**
Truth Seekers every Sunday @ 5pm
 Nov. 28th - Happy Thanksgiving
(office closed 28th & 29th)
 Dec 1st – **Baby shower for Taylor Spivey@ 1pm**
 Dec 7th – Bible Trivia @ 5:00pm.
 Dec 8th – **Cookies with Santa @ 3:00pm**
 Dec 10th – Ladies Bible Class @6:30pm
 Dec.25th – **Merry Christmas**
(church office closed Dec 24th & 25th)
 Dec. 29 – **5th Sunday Singing/evening service**

BIBLE TRIVIA

Bible Trivia will be held on Saturday, December 7th at 5 p.m. The theme for Bible Trivia is **Heroes, Villains & Sidekicks**. Hero Sub Sandwiches will be provided. Make plans to come and bring a side dish and, or dessert. **Sign up sheet in foyer.**

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.
 Matthew 6:33-34 (ESV)

ORDER OF SERVICES
SUNDAY
December 1, 2024
9:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

- Song Leader.....Ben Hutson
 Opening Prayer.....David Johnson
 Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

- Welcome.....Jim Cherry
 Scripture Reading.....Jason Sever
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett
 Opening Prayer.....Bob Sever
 Lord's Supper.....Ken Veale
 Servers.....C. Nelsen, R. Buck, C. Newby
 D. Thompson, J. Crawford, C. Suddarth
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
 Closing Prayer.....Josh Johnson

4:15 Singing Class

5:00 PM SERVICE

- Welcome.....Jim Cherry
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett
 Opening Prayer.....Rick Gallagher
 Sermon..... Andrew Spivey
 Lord's Supper.....Bob Brown
 Closing Prayer.....Kevin Siler

WEDNESDAY

December 4, 2024

7:00 PM

- Welcome.....Jim Cherry
 Song Leader.....Garrett Rowlett
 Opening Prayer.....Fate Evans
 Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
 Closing Prayer.....Brent Smith
 Ushers for December.....T. Cummins/A. Williamson
 Communion Care for December.....C/P Newby
 Door Greeters – West Door.....T/J Cummins
 East Door.....B/M Smith
 Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Jessica Rowlett

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

- Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
 Church Office.....615-452-3431

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 1883 Nashville Pike
 Gallatin, TN 37066
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 E-mail: nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Syble Johnson is now home. Evelyn Harris has returned home. Charles Williams is back home. Olene Anderson, mother of June Thompson, has returned home. Ida Lou Sherrill mother of Alex Sherrill, is in rehab at The Waters of Gallatin, Room 407. Myra Rasnick mother of Meredith Andrews had surgery for a broken fibula. Jean McCurdy, mother of Olivia Nelsen, had surgery for breast cancer. Surgery went well. Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby has completed his chemo treatments. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. He has begun chemo.



PRAYER LIST

Hugh Fulford; Maddie Andrews; Mary Spivey; Charlie Cliburn; Ottis & Maxine Cothron; Sara Hosman; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Pat Watson; Frances Catron; Charles & Jackie Williams; Pat Crump; Scott Seals son of Charlie & Wanda Seals; Ethan Huffard son-in-law of Carl & Pam Newby; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley; Jean McCurdy mother of Olivia Nelsen; Elaine Reynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Bethany Shoulders, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; Samantha Hager, friend of June Thompson; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Wade Kennedy father of Diana Stephenson; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

SHUT-INS

Jean Deaton

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list. Please notify us of any changes.

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	103
Morning Worship.....	162
Sunday Evening.....	71
Wednesday Evening.....	N/A
Contribution.....	\$7,671.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$5,125.00

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

Deacons

Carl Newby	Jonathan Senn	Brent Smith
Eric Stephenson	Adam Williamson	

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
 GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister