

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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July 7, 2024

“IS THERE BASIS FOR YOUR JOY?”

By Stan Cox

Do you feel good about yourself? Your relationship with God? Do you feel good about those with whom you have spiritual fellowship? Do you have joy without measure? A peace which passes understanding? Does a smile invariably crease your face when you contemplate your eternal welfare? It does? Good!...



Now for the most important question. Upon what do you base all of these positive emotions? Hopefully, you have a ready answer to this last question. The proper answer would be, “From a study of God’s word, I recognize that I have been obedient to His will, and am a partaker of the blessings that are reserved for His children.”

Now, you might not word it in exactly the same way, but the point is that your good feelings, your emotions, are based upon an intellectual recognition. You know you have been obedient to God. You know that God has promised blessings to those who are obedient. You know that God keeps His promises. Therefore you are happy. However, many experience that same happiness without that intellectual foundation.

Emotions are peculiar in that respect. You can be happy, sad, peaceful, worried, etc., without a proper foundation. A mother can be worried about the safety of her child, when in reality the child is perfectly safe. A city can sleep peacefully in the supposed safety of its beds, not knowing an earthquake is imminent. A follower of Mohammed can glory in his certainty of an eternal reward, not knowing that salvation is to be found only through Jesus (cf. John 14:6). An emotion is valid only if it is based on fact. Worry is appropriate only if there is the potential of harm; a feeling of peacefulness only if there is actual safety; spiritual joy only if a relationship with God actually exists.

Herein resides the problem with the emotionalism prevalent among religious people today. Too many believe themselves saved, not because they have the facts, but rather because they feel good about themselves. We see that it would be unreasonable for a mother to fret about the safety of her child when she sees and knows her child is safe. Why is it so many can not see how unreasonable it is to base their salvation upon a “feeling in my heart.” There is a popular notion that the facts don’t matter. That we should stop emphasizing the scripture, and just love one another. That we should emphasize the Man instead of the plan. That it does not matter what you believe, so long as you are sincere. This is simply not so.

I feel good about myself and my eternal destiny because I have obeyed the gospel of Christ. I have heard the saving gospel, and have believed it (John 3:16). I have repented of my sins, and have been baptized to have them washed away (Acts 2:38). I have confessed and am willing to confess the Lordship of Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10). As such, I know that I have the hope of heaven. I worship and work with Christians who follow God’s word in matters of worship, work, and daily living. We have a “thus saith the Lord” for all of our practices, and are willing always to defend what we teach and do for God.

Are you happy? It is an important question. But the second is more important. WHY? Upon what do you base that happiness? Think about it.

"MAY GOD GRANT US GREAT BOLDNESS!"

By Ivie Powell

When people are in favor of killing (murdering) a child 6 minutes before birth, and even if the child survived the abortion, they also give full consent to kill (murder) the baby, they stand under the condemnation of Almighty God! *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness"* (Rom. 1:18).

The condition of the Gentiles is vividly set forth as well as God's attitude toward sin in Romans 1:18-32. Of special interest is verse 28, *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient"* (fitting, ASV).

A "reprobate mind" is one that casts God out of their mind. Their depraved mind was due to the fact "they did not like to retain God in their knowledge." This is the root problem of all who advocate aborting (murdering) babies! It is indeed a warped mind to sing "Oh how I love Jesus on Sunday," and consent to murdering babies on Monday!

Parents need to teach their children that abortion is not "fetal tissue" or some kind of "blob of protoplasm," but a real, live baby! Furthermore, babies are human and made "in the image of God" (Gen. 1:26). Jeremiah 1:5 states, *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee."*

An additional passage declaring that God recognizes a baby in the womb is Psalm 139:15-16: *"My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."*

The Bible clearly states, *"thou Shalt not kill"* (Rom. 13:9)!

Another area many rigorously defend is homosexuality. Casting aside God and His inspired word, they call for legislation that would make it a "hate crime" to preach and write against the sins of the LGBTQ+ community. Our response is the same as that of Peter and John, *"And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word"* (Acts 4:29).

My friends, homosexuality and lesbianism is an abomination in the sight of Almighty God (Leviticus 20:13)! The word "abomination" is that which is detestable, disgusting and loathsome to God! Homosexuality, lesbianism and all perversion is condemned in Romans 1:24-32! Why did God give them up? Because they *"changed the truth of God into a lie"* (Rom. 1:25a)!

God's condemnation of all who participate in and give consent to those who live ungodly lives is seen in Romans 1:32, *"Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in [also consent with ASV] them that do them."*

Remember Sodom and Gomorrah! *"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly"* (2 Peter 2:6). Of Sodom and Gomorrah, Jude also says they *"are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire"* (Jude 7).

Yes, God loves all sinners, including LGBTQ+, and wants all sinners to obey the Gospel (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 2:3-4).

"O, earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord" (Jeremiah 22:29).

Memory Verse of the Week:

Ephesians 4:29 (NKJB)

"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."



Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, Anita Harris, Fred Johnson, Bill Hall, Carla & George Hutto, Nathan Cox, & Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer).

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Paul Busby
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Glorifying God In The Church"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Author: Hebrews
Daniel H. King, Sr
Starting Page & Question: Page #35, Question #5

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:1
Song Leader: Carson Cox
Lord's Supper: Jerry Kennemur
Assisting: —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Freedom, Independence, & Liberty"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

July 10, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: The Minor Prophets
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page #29, Question #1
Invitation: Brian Meade
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Blake Briggs

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXjxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Glorifying God In The Church”

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 3:20-21.**

I. When We Come Together For Worship.

- **Glorify:** “To Magnify, Extol, Praise; Ascribing Honor To Him, Acknowledging Him As To His Being, Attributes, and Acts.” (**Vine’s Complete Expository**

Dictionary).

- **Psalm 86:9-13.**
- God Is Worthy Of Our Praise: **Revelation 4:8-11.**
- Sing His Praises: **Romans 15:5-11.**
- Why The Early Church Was So Devoted: **Acts 2:42.**
- We Should Strive To Glorify God In The Church Today!

II. When We Give Ourselves Over To God.

- **Romans 12:1-2; I Corinthians 6:19.**
- We Are To Be An Example In Purity: **1 Timothy 4:12.**
- Must Not Lose Our Good Influence: **Matthew 5:13.**
- It Requires Sanctification: **2 Timothy 2:19-22.**
- **Matthew 5:8; 1 Peter 2:11-12.**

III. When We Use What We Have To God’s Glory.

- The Macedonians Glorified God: **2 Corinthians 9:13.**
- As Barnabas And Others Did: **Acts 4:34-37.**
- As We Do Good Works: **Matthew 5:16.**
- We Are Created For Good Works: **Ephesians 2:10.**

IV. When We Persevere In The Faith.

- **Persevere:** “To Persist In Any Purpose Or Enterprise; Continue Striving In Spite Of Discouragements.” (**Funk & Wagnall’s College Standard Dictionary**).
- We Watch With Perseverance: **Ephesians 6:18.**
- As We Persevere In Suffering: **1 Peter 4:14-16.**
- Jesus’ Disciples: **Matthew 10:22.**
- Early Christians: **Revelation 2:10.**

“Freedom, Independence, & Liberty”

Lesson Text: **Galatians 5:1.**

I. God’s Word Is The Means Of Gaining Our Freedom.

- In **James 1:25**, The New Testament Is Called *“The Perfect Law Of Liberty.”*
- **John 8:36.**
- God’s Word Teaches Us How To Be Saved. (Faith, Repentance, Confession, & Baptism)
- Our Independence Day!
 - Freedom From The *“Old Man Of Sin.”* **Romans 6:6.**
 - Freedom From A Life Of Guilt, Shame, & Remorse. **Acts 2:37-38.**
 - Freedom From Addictions To Sin. **Acts 17:30.**
 - Freedom From God’s Wrath And Punishment! **Romans 8:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:10.**

II. What Freedom/Liberty In Christ Means— And Does Not Mean.

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| – Freedom From The Law Of Sin & Death.
- Romans 8:2. | – But Not A License To Sin.
- Romans 6:1-2; vs. 4. |
| – Freedom From The Law Of Moses.
- Galatians 3:19.
- Galatians 3:23-25. | – But Not From The Law Of Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 9:20-21.
- Hebrews 7:12; 10:16-17. |
| – Freedom To Have A Legitimate Marriage.
- Genesis 2:21-25 (24); 1 Cor. 7:1-2. | – But Not Marriage Into Adultery.
- Matthew 19:9; Hebrews 13:4. |
| – Freedom To Worship God His Way.
- Deut. 4:1-2; John 4:23-24. | – But Not By Our Own Way.
- Matt. 15:9; Galatians 1:6-10. |
| – Freedom To Evangelize.
- Matthew 28:19-20. | – But Not Make Disciples After Ourselves.
- 1 Cor. 1:11-13; Acts 20:29-30. |
| – Freedom To Wear Modest Clothing.
- 1 Timothy 2:9-10. | – But Not To Wear Immodest Dress.
- Proverbs 7:10. |
| – Freedom To Use Clean Speech.
- Titus 2:6-8. | – But Not To Use Corrupt Speech.
- Ephesians 4:29; Col. 3:8. |