

Rejoice in the Lord Always

by Dan Jenkins

How could any relationship with God be anything other than the most marvelous experience one could have on this earth? When Paul described the fruit of the Spirit working in our lives, the second word he used was joy. Life with Him can never be a life of despair and gloom.

There is joy associated for those who teach others. There is great joy for those who teach. When Jesus told His disciples that the fields were ready to be reaped, He said that both those who sow and those who reap shall rejoice together (John 4:36). The psalmist said that those who sow shall without doubt come rejoicing (Psa. 126:5-6).

There is joy for those who are taught about Jesus. On the day of Pentecost, there were 3,000 who received the word with joy (Acts 2:41). When Philip preached in Samaria, "There was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:8). The Ethiopian "...went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:39). The man who found the treasure of the kingdom "...for joy over it goes and sells all he had and buys the field" (Matt. 13:44). Think about your own experience. Has there ever been any day surpassing the day your sins were forgiven?

There is joy in the midst of trials as a Christian. When adversity comes into our lives God tell us to

Christianity was never designed to be a religion of sadness. The words joy and rejoice are found more than 400 times in the Bible.

"...count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (Jas. 1:3). How can this be? God gives the answer in the verses that follow. It is the trials in our lives which make us "...perfect and complete lacking in nothing." Notice also that God said count it all joy! We must not focus on the trials of adversity but on the results of them.

Jesus used some amazing words to describe our

response when we are hated by others for His sake. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy" (Luke 6:23). He does not see such times of adversity as a time to weep but as a time to rejoice. But, even more than just a time for joy—a time to leap for



joy!

There is immeasurable joy awaiting us at the end of our lives. As Paul journeyed to Jerusalem for the final time he passed through many cities. In every one of them there were prophets who foretold the chains and tribulations which he would face when he arrived. Such did not deter his resolve for he longed to "...finish my race with joy" (Acts 20:24). It was this same joy which Jesus spoke of when His disciples were rejoicing that they had the power to cast out demons. He said, "Do not rejoice in this ... but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice."

When Jesus Returns

by Dan Jenkins

When Jesus foretold the time when not a single stone of that majestic temple in Jerusalem would rest upon another, the disciples asked for signs which would precede the destruction of that temple and the end of Judaism (Mark 13:4; Luke 21:7). The Lord gave at least eight distinct signs which would come before that event. He then foretold of another event which would happen for which there was one single sign to announce its coming. Jesus spoke of a day when, not the temple, but heaven and earth would pass away. He gave no sign for that day, for it will come as an unannounced thief (Mark 13:31-32).

It will happen when men are doing things which happen all the time—eating, drinking, marrying and weddings. It will be unannounced and will come when no one is expecting it to happen (Matt. 24:44). What is happening on that day will be the same things which happen every other day. What kinds of events will be happening when Jesus returns?

When Jesus returns, some will be sitting in worship. Every day there are gatherings of Christians in various time zones around the world like Bible classes, devotions, gospel meetings, lectureships and special church events. This was brought home to me when I preached in Columbus, Ohio, several years ago. A brother prayed,

“Lord, if you are assembling your angels right now to come to judge the world, we beg you to wait long enough for brother Dan to finish his sermon and let us sing one more song.” It could happen. It is truly possible that He will come before the end of an evangelistic sermon.

When Jesus comes, some will be attending a funeral. For all the reasons given above, just imagine what it would be like to be at a funeral or at a graveside when that shout comes from heaven. All of the grieving which accompanies these events will be meaningless. Such thoughts should help us deal with the loss of our loved ones. It is truly possible that He will come before a funeral filled with grief ends.

When Jesus comes, some will be involved in sinful actions. Imagine those who are cursing and blaspheming God and His holy name just as the last trumpet sounds.

Imagine those who are involved in sexual immorality as the shout from heaven comes. It is possible that just as words profaning His name leave someone's lips the heavens will be rolled up as a scroll.

When He comes, many will be involved in “washing the feet” of those around them. What a joy to think that when He comes we will be doing right. Think about this. Live every minute of every day knowing that that minute is when He might come!



Correspondence/Encouragement

Inmate Correspondence:

Zachory Cabano #01886823

Beto Unit
1391 FM 3328
Tennessee Colony, TX 75880

Caleb Ivie #01946171

Hutchins Unit
1500 E. Langdon Rd.
Dallas, TX 75241

Paul Jones #01934698

Roach Unit
15845 FM 164
Childress, TX 79201

Missions Correspondence:

Cherokee Home for Children

Director: Delton McGuire
PO Box 295
Cherokee, TX 76832
Email: chc@centex.net

New Zealand Harvest Missions

James & Emily Cammock
PO Box 412
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240
New Zealand
Email: church-of-christ-cammock@hotmail.com

La Poynor Prison Ministry

Steve & Carrie Handley
11353 CR 4345
La Rue, TX 75770
Email: shandley56@gmail.com

WVBS Online School

Director: Russell Haffner
25 Lantana Ln.
Maxwell, TX 78656
Website: school.wvbs.org

Southwest School of Bible Studies:

Corey Tackett (1st Year Student)

1215 W. Slaughter Ln. #1424
Austin, TX 78748

Encouragement:

James & Yvonne Ainsworth Paul Loosier

107 Max Ave.
Corsicana, TX 75110
3210 W. Hwy 22 #211
Corsicana, TX 75110

Connie Benishek

1300 Northwood Blvd. #12
Corsicana, TX 75110

Aline Barrett

296 FM 2555
Corsicana, TX 75110

Don & Shirley Bowen

1100 Woodcastle
Corsicana, TX 75110

Melba & Eleanor Bower

2011 Fairfax
Corsicana, TX 75110

Wanda Brown

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #206
Corsicana, TX 75110

Joann Chambers

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #400
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mary Crews

3002 W. 2nd Ave. #514
Corsicana, TX 75110

Gayle & Christine Garner

915 N. 26th St.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Meagan Gould

800 Medinah
Corsicana, TX 75110

Neta Marshall

1308 Woodland Ct.
Allen, TX 75002

Thelma Martin

1201 Ficklin Circle
Corsicana, TX 75110

Bud & Barbara Moore

441 NWCR 2160
Barry, TX 75102

Ruth Moore

213 W. Grady St.
Blooming Grove, TX 76626

Billy & Tina Roughton

1430 Pin Oak Ln.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Jewel Rutherford

3004 W. 2nd Ave. #623
Corsicana, TX 75110

Lynn & Melissa Webster

2909 W. 4th Ave.
Corsicana, TX 75110

Pat Wheat

328 Wesley
Corsicana, TX 75110

Louis & Patty Williams

1201 Ficklin Circle
Corsicana, TX 75110

Mission Works

Westhill Works

Benevolence Program

Local Works

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org
House to House, Heart to Heart
In Search of the Lord's Way
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

Prison Works

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

Foreign Works

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin
New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

Leadership

Elders

Percell Milton - 903.673.1819
Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464
Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

Deacons

James Ainsworth - 903.872.1390
Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055
Dan Gibson - 903.641.9587
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Micah Haden - 903.673.1177
James Horn - 903.599.9114

Michael Jones - 214.803.5984
Roy McCullough - 903.872.2069
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
James Olsen - 903.874.8918
Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457
David Shastid - 903.257.6464
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Ministers

Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)
Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

Prayer List

Johnny Fullbright, a good friend of Carrie Gibson, has been diagnosed with stage 3 pancreatic cancer.

Our Love & Sympathy are extended to April Myers and her family at the passing of her grandmother. The funeral was held Monday.

We also Extend our Love & Sympathy to Lynn & Melissa Webster at the passing of Lynn's grandmother. Her service was yesterday.

Continue to Remember: James Ainsworth, Gayle Garner, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Patty Williams, Meagan Gould, Connie Ivie

Service Men: Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart

Birthdays This Week

July 11 - Wayne Prater, Emily Roughton

July 12 - Keitha McDougald

July 14 - Debbie Banks, Bella Webster

July 16 - Donal Butler, Rachel Williams

Next Week's Adult Class

Triumphal Entry

(Mat. 21:1-10; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-15)

Announcements

"Dearest Westhill Family, I want to say thank you for the love, hugs, prayers, and concern we received at the unexpected passing of my brother, Donald. As some may know, it was a difficult time for me and I thank you for being there when we needed you." In Christian Love, Bobby & Carol Barham

The Mission Trip is going on this week. Cory, several other adults and our kids left yesterday for Leonard and will return Wednesday. Please pray for their efforts in that community.

Registration is Now Open Online for the Boys' Leadership Initiative. Please, register. All of the information is available online with the form.

There are still a few spots available for our yearly ladies retreat at Summers Mill in Belton September 23-24. Cost is \$65, and the t-shirt (optional, but always cute) will be \$12. See Lanette Stewart, Vicki Ivy, Lee Owens or Julie Dilbeck to sign up. **Payment is due to Lanette ASAP!**

Important Dates:

Boys' Leadership Initiative - July 29-31

Summer Youth Series (Here!) - August 2

Discipleship University - August 5-6

Records for July 10, 2016

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|--------------------|------------|
| Bible Class | 167 |
| AM Worship..... | 227 |
| PM Worship..... | 143 |
| Wednesday | 162 |
| Contribution | \$7,951.50 |

Privileged to Serve

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Song Leader | David Baumgartner |
| Opening Prayer | Darwin Thomas |
| Communion Leader | Michael Jones |
| Communion Servers | |
| Tim Cooke | Millard Dowdle |
| Jim Haden | Nick Hoffman |
| James Horn | Clay Jackson |
| Eric Olsen | Greg Olsen |
| Brody Owens | Larry Rowden |
| Dalton Shastid | Justin Williams |
| Closing Prayer | Tim Cooke |
| Nursery | Addie Shastid & Sloane Slaughter |
| Security | Mike Drain, Wade Hall, Buck Murphy |
| PM Song Leader | Justin Mahoney |
| PM Opening Prayer | Tyler Baumgartner |
| PM Closing Prayer | Jose Sosa |
| Wed. Song Leader | Justin Williams |
| Wed. Summer Series Speaker | David Baumgartner |
| July Contact Elder | Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228 |