Glorifying the Name of God

The objective of gospel preaching is to glorify the name of Jehovah God throughout the earth (see Numbers 14:21; Isaiah 6:3; 11:9; 62:1-4; Habakkuk 2:14; Ephesians 3:10). God's name is glorified in absolute truth rather than the fleshly reasoning of man. Paul writes, "For our glorying is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we behaved ourselves in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward" (2 Corinthians 1:12). What Paul preached to the Corinthians, and all churches, was divine revelation (see Galatians 1:11-12). Paul writes the Corinthians again saying, "For we preached not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5).

Many in Corinth believed Paul, Timothy, and Titus were preaching a message that would benefit them. Some in Corinth had accused Paul and his preaching companions of "commending" themselves to the brethren for gain (see 2 Corinthians 3:1). These jealous and factious people accused Paul and his preaching companions of trying to pull a scam over the brethren in relationship to the needy saints in Judea (see 2 Corinthians 12:16-19). The real individuals who sought a following in Corinth were exposed by Paul at 2 Corinthians 11:19-20).

Truth will always be the standard that identifies truthful preachers from false preachers. Paul had great confidence in the Corinthian's ability to see through the erroneous, jealous, and factious (see 2 Corinthians 1:14-17; 2:3; 3:4). Though he had confidence in their abilities he nonetheless had fears too. Paul writes, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent
beguiled Eve in his craftiness, your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity that is toward Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3). Paul knew that there was salvation in no other name than Christ Jesus (see Acts 4:12).

Today there are teachers of many faiths and doctrines. No doubt these men are sincere and honest in their error. Man's conscience; however, measures no man in a spiritual sense. Jesus said, "He that rejects me, and receives not my sayings, hath one that judges him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). God's people need to remove the words, "I think... its my opinion... I hold the position... my personal belief is this or that... I believe we ought to do this or that..." etc. Our heavenly reward is not based in man's reason or conviction but rather in truth. Let us always give book, chapter, and verse for all that we say and do. Let us bring glory to the name of God throughout this world with his divine revelation.

John C. Robertson

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Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Toline Witherspoon is home recovering from her recent back surgery. We pray that her rehabilitation goes well and that she will be with us soon.

Patricia Robertson is at the United Regional Hospital room 921 due to some heart issues. Please keep her in your prayers too.

Estelle Sims remains at Health South recovering from a recent stroke.

Shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home)

Ila Belle Windham
At home but request no calls this time)

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Psalms 23

1 A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.
Rejoice in the Lord

Introduction:
I have noticed lately that this congregations seems to be dragging. There seems to be an over all air of doldrums. I have to confess that due to recent events I too have been a bit sluggish in my joy. We all have various issues to deal with in life and if we are not careful they can pile up on us and get the better of us. This lesson shall examine the joy that we as Christians ought to be experiencing no matter what else is happening.

I. Admonition to Rejoice:
A. A commandment (Philippians 4:4-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16).
B. Rejoice because of hope (Romans 5:1-2).
C. Rejoice in tribulation (Romans 5:3).
D. Rejoice because your sins have been forgiven (Romans 5:11).
E. Rejoice because there are other faithful brethren in the world (Romans 16:19; 2 John 1:4).
F. Rejoice with brethren who have good things happening (1 Corinthians 12:26).
G. When the gospel message is preached (Philippians 1:18).
H. Rejoice even when placed under a despotic government (Ecclesiastes 8:1-7).
I. Rejoice because God will have the ultimate victory over sin and death (Revelation 19:1-9).
J. Let no man take your rejoicing away (John 16:22).

II. Rejoice at Times when the World would think it Impossible:
A. Rejoice when times are difficult (James 1:1ff; 1 Peter 1:6).
B. Rejoice in the sufferings of Christ (1 Peter 4:13).
C. Rejoice and never give up (2 Corinthians 4:7 - 5:4).

III. Examples of those who Rejoiced to the End:
B. Paul (2 Corinthians 11:23ff).
C. You and me (Revelation 2:10).

Conclusion:

God has never promised man that their lives would be free of heartache, sorrow, disappointment, and mistreatment from the world. Actually, the Lord reveals that these things are exactly what will take place (see Ecclesiastes John 15:18ff; 2 Timothy 3:12). Never; however, let us suffer hardships and sorrows due to unlawful living (1 Peter 2:20; 3:17; 4:15). Solomon writes, “In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider; yea, God hath made the one side by side with the other, to the end that man should not find out anything that shall be after him” (Ecclesiastes 7:14). Sorrows in this life have no preference (see Ecclesiastes 9:11-12). Though we know not the day of prosperity nor adversity we do know, by faith, that Jesus will come again. Our rejoicing is not in the things of this world but with the glories that are soon to come (1 Peter 5:6-7). Keep your chin up!