

## ROBBERS OF JOY

In the book of Philippians Paul uses the word "joy", or some form of it 19 times. "The Joyful Christian Mind" would be a good title for the book.

Paul would not be robbed of the joy he had in Christ. Neither should we be robbed of our joy in Him.



Paul would not allow circumstances to deprive him of his joy. He was in prison, but he rejoiced that the gospel could be preached "to the whole palace guard" (1:13). Also, he would not allow insincere brethren to keep him from rejoicing in Christ. He said, "whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice" (verse 18).

Paul would not allow people problems to rob him of his joy. He urged the brethren to "fulfill (his) joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." As Christians, we must not allow "selfish ambition or conceit" to rob us of our joy, "but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (2:3).

Paul would not allow his past and present position to rob him of his joy. He wrote, "We are the circumcision, who worship God in spirit, rejoice in Jesus Christ, and have no confidence in the flesh" (3:3). He could have boasted of his past life and accomplishments, but he said, "What things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ" (3:7).

Paul would not allow worry to rob him of his joy. He admonishes us by saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanks giving let your requests be made known to God" (4:4-6). We must not allow worry or anxiety to rob us of our valuable time, energy, and joy.

If anyone has reason to rejoice, it is the Christian, who is saved by the blood of Christ and lives in hope of heaven. - Jerry L. Davidson, *The Voice of Truth International*

### - HAPPY PEOPLE -

"... happy is that people, whose God is the Lord" - Psalm 144:15

Happy or blessed is the people whose God is JEHOVAH, a people who worship and serve Him. The religion of God is designed to make happy people. It gives peace and quietude. God provides a hope that keeps us persevering. He teaches the principles of prosperity and happiness: work, diligence, thrift, love and good will. His way guards us from bitterness and strife, freeing our energies for a more productive life.

The good life is no accident. It is produced by a cause — God's directives.

The best security for any nation is adherence to God's plan. A remembrance of God has always prospered nations. The nations that forget Him are the ones that regress and destroy themselves. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17).

To be happy is one of the most prized personal and national goals. We all want to be happy. For some, it is even an obsession. Yet, where do most people and nations look for happiness? To God? Seldom.

Only a few know where real happiness comes from. It's not found in the pleasure palaces of the world. Genuine joy and happiness are found only in Jehovah our God.

- Leroy Brownlow, *A Psalm In My Heart*. (used by permission)

To spend time wisely, invest in eternity.

### News Notes

**LADIES MEETING:** Following this morning's worship to discuss plans for our Ladies Day in May.

**CONVERT'S CLASS:** Each Thursday at 11:00 a.m.

**ENCOURAGEMENT GATHERING:** For Nancy Hadley this Thursday, April 2nd, 6:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Building. Refreshments provided. Nancy will be going to her daughter & son-in-law's home in Tennessee for a continued temporary time of rehabilitation.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Next Saturday, April 4th, 8:00 a.m. at Coplin's in Newell.

**COVERED DISH DINNER:** Next Sunday, April 5th, about Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our 2:00 p.m. worship at the Church Building.

**BIRTHDAY PARTY:** For Gibson Call, age 4 (grandson of Andy & Linda Parkes), Saturday, April 11th, 1 - 4 p.m. at the Fellowship Bldg. RSVP - Cindy Miskimen.

**SENIOR DAY:** Chester, April 18th, 10 a.m.-Noon Speakers: Brandon Foresha & Paolo DiLuca. Lunch provided.

**LADIES DAYS:** Steelton Church of Christ (N. Martinsville) April 25th, "Bloom Where You Are Planted" Speaker: Amantha Cole. Additional details on the Bulletin Board.

**Chester: Saturday, May 9th.** Registration & refreshments: 9:00 a.m. Program: 9:45 a.m. "Roots Before Fruits". Speaker: Latisha Brown. Lunch to follow.

**FRIDAY NIGHT SING:** May 8th, 7:00 p.m., Struthers Church of Christ. Refreshments after the singing.

**PANTRY:** Baked beans.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Donna Stevens, Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Isaiah Robinson (Rich & Emily's baby), Ron Miller (Bill's brother), Connor Wilson (Margie Martin's nephew), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father), Steve Soltesz (Tim Martin's brother-in-law). **Covington Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation:** Nancy Hadley, 100 Covington Dr., Room 304, East Palestine, OH 44413. **Serra Manor, Weirton:** Jean Haught (Skip's mother). **Fox, Chester:** Mary Johnson, Marlene Evans. **Elsewhere:** Sue Baumgardner (the McKittrick's daughter), 245 Mark Drive, Paducah, KY 42001. **Christy Claypool**, 204 Rio Pinar Drive, Warner Robins, GA 31088. **Jackie Brown** (Rico's mother), 4227 Prince Hall Blvd., Orlando, FL 32811. **Herman McHan**, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

**BIBLE MEDITATIONS:** Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

### GOSPEL MEETINGS

Steelton -----	April	5- 9	-----	Tim Canup
Hanoverton -----	April	12- 16	-----	Will Montgomery
Weirton Heights -----	April	12- 16	-----	Rick Tinchler
Salem (Glen Easton) -----	April	12- 17	-----	Terry Jones
<b>Chester</b> -----	<b>April</b>	<b>26- 30</b>	-----	<b>Will Montgomery</b>
McKinleyville -----	May	3- 7	-----	Different Speakers