

12/24/22

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FB 5

Sermon – The World Needs JOY

Scripture – Galatians 5, Psalm 19

Main Message – The World needs Jesus more than ever because HE is the source of lasting JOY

I remember as a young child in 1969 my Parents had an RCA stereo console. It played records. I can't remember how many records we had in total, probably less than 10 and I know Lawrence Welk would be proud. I do know we had one Christmas Record and we played both sides for about 20 songs in total. Throughout Christmas it was played regularly and so I heard the same songs. My favorite was Bing Crosby singing, "Do you hear what I hear." We will be singing that song this year even though it isn't in the Hymnal. Hearing that Song brings me JOY. It brought me joy back then because it built excitement about Christmas and the celebration of Jesus being born. Also, there were presents. I was listening to this song once on a very cold snowy Montana evening a few days before Christmas. (Tell Story About My dad misinterpreting my thoughts) Life wasn't perfect, otherwise I would have gotten more tuna pot pies instead of the nasty beef ones. Joy was a regular part of my life.

True joyfulness is hard to maintain. That's partly why it is so precious. It's like gold. It wouldn't be precious if it was just laying around everywhere. Joy is a special feeling. Its source is from God, along with other beneficial emotions. It is available to an 8 year old boy and 100 year old man. The "Normal" operating mode for people, in particular these days is to feed the flesh and not the Spirit. You can achieve some happiness by feeding the flesh. Unfortunately it is like a drug. You have to keep feeding it more and more to keep staying happy. The Spirit is different. **Read Galatians 5:16-26**

I have found that for me, true joy, that is indescribable, happens only when I am at peace and focused on God and true fellowship with my fellow man. It aligns my emotions with God. Joy has brought me comfort and tears that no words can explain. Indeed, Joy has no earthly word that can fully describe it.

The world is fast becoming more joy-less, not joyful. The world has been pushing GOD out of their life and so there should be no surprise. No God, NO JOY. It is that simple. Deny the Creator HIS Rightful place in your life and you are denying the source of Joy.

This time of year, suicide rates are up. Unhappiness is up. Stress is up. Reliance on our Father in Heaven is down. More God. Less issues. For me, it is frustrating to watch. You point them to God and they run away or scoff.

Perhaps, we as Christians need to remember how to express the joy we feel when we are in close fellowship and communion with the Lord. Today, at our fellowship time downstairs where we will have our advent dinner, I'm sure many of you will be happy. But take the time in quiet contemplation the grace of the Lord, the season in which we are and look inside yourself and bring God there so you can feel joy. Then go back to the laughter and conversation, but leave room for JOY in your very soul.

Read Psalm 19.