

NSD Notes

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)

Volume 1 No. 1

January 4, 2009

Services

Bible Study 10 a.m.
Morning Service.....11 a.m.
Evening Service.....6 p.m.
Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

News @ NSD

WELCOME VISITORS!

Our Sunday morning study of the gospel of Luke will conclude this week. Next Sunday we will begin a new study in the book of Acts.

The Harris' were here last Sunday and returned to their home in South Carolina.

Please continue to pray for **Ernest Peeples** – he leaves on Sunday for Texas and then will be deployed to Kuwait.

Ken Holloway is unable to drive for several more weeks while he recovers from eye surgery. Please keep Ken and **Martha** in your prayers.

Jeanne Lynne got news that she will need to undergo surgery and chemotherapy to treat her cancer – please pray for Jeanne and her family.

January Birthdays

Cassandra Fredrickson (6th)
Perette Godwin (22nd)

THE JOY OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

"And there was great joy in that city." (Acts 8:8).

"And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 8:39).

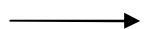
"And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost." (Acts 13:52).

"And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren." (Acts 15:3).

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24).

The words "joy" and "rejoicing" are found repeatedly in the word of God. Sometimes they come from the same word meaning "calmly happy, or well off." One who is a Christian is one who is "well off." It is indeed sad when one (for whatever reason), turns and walks no more with Christ. However this happened in the days of Christ--"*From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.*" (**John 6:66**) - and it happens today. Sometimes people may depart from Christ because they never really counted the cost. Others may depart because they have been deceived into believing a lie. Yet, sometimes people simply depart from Christ and go back into the world. They--for some reason--have forgotten the joy of being a Christian. We need to consider why it is a joyful matter to be a Christian.

THE JOY OF KNOWING ONE'S PAST SINS ARE FORGIVEN. The Bible shows us that our sins can be forgiven, no matter how serious they have been. God has even forgiven those that crucified His only begotten Son (**Acts 2:36-38**). One of the most well known Apostles, Paul, was previous guilty of murdering Christians. Yet look at the good he was able to accomplish because he was forgiven. No matter what sin you may have committed, if you will repent and become a Christian, you can have a clear conscience, knowing that your sins have been forgiven.



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All are welcome to our worship
and study meetings!

*... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs
with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16*

Give ear to my words, O LORD,
Consider my meditation.
Give heed to the voice of my cry,
My King and my God,
For to You I will pray.
My voice You shall hear
in the morning, O LORD;
In the morning,
I will direct *it* to You,
And I will look up.

Psalm 5:1-3

Dear Lord, grant me Thy loving care
And listen to my earnest prayer
O keep me in Thy perfect way
In Jesus' Holy name I pray

Dear Lord, I pray on bended knee
In mercy hear my humble plea
My soul lift up from Satan's snare
To live for Christ whose name I wear

Dear Lord, when my short life is o'er
O take me home for evermore
To dwell with thee in heav'n above
And share in praise Thy endless love

Tim Stevens

[The Joy of Being a Christian]

THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD. The word "fellowship" means "communion" or a "sharing in common." One that is a Christian has communion with God. This should be a matter of great joy. After showing that Christ had come in the flesh, John wrote, "Behold *what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*" (**I John 3:1**).

THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP WITH BRETHREN. Fellowship not only extends upward to God, but also outward to fellow Christians. It certainly should be a joy knowing that we have communion with God and with brothers and sisters in Christ. This fellowship is not determined by man but by God. Fellowship is not determined by whom one likes or dislikes, but by whether or not one is walking in the light. John wrote: "*If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.*" (**I John 1:6-7**). What a joy it is when we walk in the light and fellowship that is had among brethren - "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*" (**Psalms 133:1-3**).

THE JOY OF KNOWING THAT HEAVEN IS OUR ETERNAL HOME. Heaven is described as a wonderful place of no more tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain (**Revelations 21:4**). It also is a beautiful city. This place is attainable by all who want to go there. It is a place of eternal joy. We can know whether or not this is our destiny---"*For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*" (**2 Corinthians 5:1**).

Are you a Christian? If not, why not obey God this very day and know the joy that can be yours by being a faithful child of God?

Excerpted from an article by Billy Bland, West Side Church of Christ

ELDERS: Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

DEACON: Matt Wells

MINISTER: Dan Austin