

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Rejoice and Be Exceedingly Glad

Matthew 5:12— “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in Heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Jesus concludes the section of Scripture known as the Beatitudes by encouraging those who are spiritually blessed to rejoice and be exceedingly glad in that fact. Much has been written in the New Testament regarding Christian joy. And much of this writing ties joy/rejoicing together with persecution/trials.

Romans 12:12 describes Christians as those who ought to be, “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.” James wrote, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience” (James 1:2-3). Paul, writing while incarcerated in a Roman prison, wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).

Have you ever met someone who was “exceedingly glad?” Someone who, no matter what it seems, was always in a pleasant mood and uplifting to be around? These are some of the most secure and most pleasant personalities to encounter and by all means we should most frequently encounter them in the Lord’s church!

And yet too many times, is it not the case that brethren let the trials and tribulations and the ups and downs of life suppress or conceal their joy? Using James’ expression, “My brethren, these things ought not so to be!

In tying rejoicing/exceeding gladness to persecution, Jesus mentions our reward in Heaven, and also the fact that the prophets before us were also persecuted. We must remember that the suffering that we must go through in this life pales in comparison to the abundance of the blessings that we will enjoy in Heaven! It will all be worth it; of this we must be assured!

In the remainder of this article, let us consider some examples of persecutions that the prophets (and others) endured for the Lord’s sake, and let us ask ourselves if we would be willing to do the same? Hebrews 11:37 informs us that they:

- * Were stoned (See 2 Chronicles 24:20-22; Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, not to be confused with Zechariah the prophet; still, this Zechariah was a man of God, stoned for speaking truth).
- * Were sawn asunder (Purported by many to be the prophet Isaiah).
- * Were tempted (In a multitude of ways you can be sure).
- * Were slain with the sword (See Jeremiah 26:20-23; (1 Kings 19:10).
- * Wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins (How’s that for comfortable/fashionable clothing?).
- * Were destitute (Think penniless).
- * Were afflicted (Think severe pain and suffering).
- * Were tormented (Remember that ancient methods of torment were absolutely gruesome).

This is just one verse that shows how terribly they were treated! And yet, these faithful men of God could hold on to the hope that they would be found faithful and would enter into the joy of our Lord in Heaven! If they could find hope and joy in those circumstances, then certainly we can find hope and joy, being exceedingly glad, in the various trials that come our way too!

— Chad Green

Prayer Request

Oliver Hernandez has requested prayers for his wife, **Yolanda**, who was taken to ORMC-ER last Tuesday night with Flu A and an obstruction of the small intestine. She is in need of prayers.

Julie Driver has requested prayers for her friend, **Paula Jones**, who had surgery and her recovery is not going well.

Devida is requesting prayers for her sister and brother-in-law, **Conchida & Roger Williams**. Conchida has been diagnosed with stage 4 renal failure and Roger just recently got out of the hospital after being treated for a UTI. Conchida may have to go on dialysis soon. Both of them are in need of prayers. They live in Piketon, OH.

Gary and Carrie Loving have requested prayers for their friend, **Marshal Itson**, who is fighting cancer. Marshal lives in Andrews and is a member of the Andrews Church of Christ.

Concerns Update

John Wood underwent laparoscopic surgery on Friday, December 9th, at the Midland Memorial Hospital to remove a kidney stone.

Dana Erwin was put on Hospice Care last week. Please keep Dana 's family in your prayers. She is Linda Tate's cousin.

Prayer List

Rudy Alaniz; Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Cathy Eastwood; Dana Erwin; Mark Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Elaine Huntington; Chuck Keith; Mildred Lee; Jason Moore; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Ken & Angie Orr, Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chassidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; Augie Rubalcado; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Bill Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Glenna Callendar; LaVerne Couch, James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers

Events

Watch ***"In Search of the Lord's Way"*** Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Youth

Bible Knowledge ... "Who said this?"

Apostle Paul said, "I appeal to Caesar." (Acts 25:11)

Office News

(Cookie Gift Boxes for our elderly)

Ladies, Saturday, December 17th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex, we will fill the **"Cookie Gift Boxes"** to hand out to our elderly members. The "Sign Up" sheet is on the bulletin board. Please put your name beside the cookie or candies you wish to make or you can bring anything you prefer. For those who have the ingredients to make "Sugar Free" treats, please put a "D" beside your name on the sign up sheet.

None of Self, All of Thee

Jesus taught concerning the Pharisees that are they “which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others” (Luke 18:9. He denounced the Pharisees as self-righteous hypocrites filled with pride with contempt for others. Proverbs 3:5 tells us to “trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Self-trust leads to distrust in God, and there can be no greater sin. Solomon said, “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool” (Proverbs 28:26). We are warned in the New Testament to “take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.” (Hebrews 3:12). “The fearful and unbelieving...shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone” (Revelation 21:8). When shall we truly say, “None of self and all of Thee”?

We must make sure that our prayers are not filled with self. Recall that the Pharisee’s prayer was about himself and in self-confidence and self-exultation. He had no humility and acknowledged no dependence upon God. He may not have been an extortioner or an adulterer, but he was self-righteous and a great sinner before God. May our life be as that of the Publican, who manifested humility and reverence and trusted in the mercy of God and not in his own righteousness.

When we worship God is a time we say “none of self and all of Thee.” Here was Cain’s problem. Although God had commanded what was to be done in worship, Cain refused to obey. His attitude and action were all of self and none of Thee. Still, we see some doing the same thing today. God has commanded to sing praise to Him in worship, yet some go their own self-willed way and use instrumental music with their singing. Like as in Cain’s case, the results will be very sad. May we sing with great joy the old song: *“Higher than the highest Heavens, Deeper than the deepest sea, Lord, thy love at last has conquered ’none of self, and all of Thee.’”*

—Fred House

December 11, 2022	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry May	Larry May
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Craig Wesson
Sermon	Heath Stapleton	(Elders)
Opening Prayer	Larry May	Larry May
Scripture	Scot Straw	Jackie Perkins
Second Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Charles Wood
Closing Prayer	Don Easlon	Caleb York
Lords Supper	<u>Cody Wesson</u>	Tommy Garcia
	Jon Roemisch	Communion
	Steve Easlon	(In Library)
	Bill Ryan	

Other Responsibilities: **Elder:** Larry May 638-3990— **Deacon:** Craig Wesson 934-4633— **Pulpit:** Jacob Carson 940-3775— **Table:** Tommy Garcia 312-5332— **Song Leaders:** Cody Wesson 934-4646 — **Recording Sermons:** Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 — **Collections:** Tommy Garcia 312-5332

Sunday AM

“TBA”

Sunday PM

“Presentations on the Missionary Work”

Our Records

Bible Class... 64

Morning Worship...114
Evening Worship ... 53
Wednesday...49
Contribution...\$5,500.00