

Morning Worship

November 8, 2015

Pastor — Allan Lane Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Tim Waters Piano — Marcia Hart

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship	Allan/People
Hymn # 206 "Blessed Be the Name"	Tim/People
Offering/Worship Prayer	John Lewis
Tithes and Offerings	People
Offering Music	Marcia Hart
Hymn # 537 "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"	Tim/People
Hymn # 522 "When the Morning Comes"	Tim/People
Anthem "At the Cross Medley"	Worship Choir
Hymn # 533 "He Lives"	Tim/People
Chorus # 23 "God Is So Good"	Tim/People
Children's Worship	
Scripture Reading	Allan/People
Message	Allan Lane
Hymn # 287 "Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord"	Tim/People
Prayer Concerns	Allan/People
Chorus of # 448 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"	Tim/People

Developing Thankfulness

Philippians 4:4-7

November 8, 2015 am

In a world of negative news and selfish motives, how do we maintain an attitude of thankfulness? In Philippians 4:4-7 Paul shows four basic principles for developing and maintaining a life of thankfulness regardless the circumstances.

1) Maintain a spirit of joy . Philippians 4:4

This verse expresses the theme of the book of Philippians - believers are to rejoice in the Lord always. Paul issued this call to rejoice when he was in prison awaiting the outcome of his trial. Further, he and Silas had already provided the Philippians with a Godly example of rejoicing under adverse circumstances, for, according to Acts 16, on the occasion of the initial preaching of the gospel at Philippi the two missionaries, who had been unjustly beaten and thrown into prison, had joyfully sung hymns and prayed.

Joy is such a vitally important factor in believers' spiritual stability that Paul repeats his command for emphasis: again I will say, rejoice! This repetition presupposes the reality that it was not easy to be joyful. On the surface it seems so unreasonable to rejoice in obedience to a command, and perhaps even more unreasonable to rejoice always, under all circumstances no matter how hard one may try.

The Philippians needed to rise above their circumstances. To a company of Christ's people, who were in doubt and fear (1:28) and set in the midst of a hostile world (2:15), this assurance rings out like a clarion call, and is repeated so that its message may not be misunderstood.

Some, wrongly identifying joy as a purely human emotion, find Paul's twice-repeated command to rejoice puzzling. How, they ask, can people be commanded to produce an emotion? But joy is not a feeling; it is the deep-down confidence that God is in control of everything for the believer's good and His own glory, and thus all is well no matter what the circumstances. The word for rejoice is a present imperative,

calling believers to the continual, habitual practice of rejoicing. Neither Paul's imprisonment as he was writing this, nor the Philippians' trials should eclipse their joy.

It is true that believers often cannot find reason to rejoice in their specific circumstances. Certainly the general wickedness, sorrow, misery, and death in the world evoke no joy. Nor are people a reliable source of joy, since they can change, hurt, and disappoint.

The only sure, reliable, unwavering, unchanging source of joy is God. Christian joy is therefore not the temporal kind, which comes and goes with one's circumstances; rather, it is predicated altogether on one's relationship with the Lord, and is thus an abiding, deeply spiritual quality of life. It finds expression in "rejoicing," which is not a Christian option, but an imperative.

Paul commands believers to rejoice in the Lord. The phrase in the Lord introduces an important principle: Knowledge of God is the key to rejoicing. George Mueller would not preach until his heart was happy in the grace of God. Ian Ruybroeck would not write while his feelings were low, but would retire to a quiet place and wait on God till he felt the spirit of inspiration. It is well-known that the elevated spirits of a group of Moravians convinced John Wesley of the reality of their (faith), and helped to bring him a short time later to a state of true conversion. A. W. Tozer said, "The Christian owes it to the world to be supernaturally joyful."

2) Learn to be content . Philippians 4:5

The word sometimes translated "reasonableness" has a richer meaning than any single English word can convey. Hence, commentators and Bible versions vary widely in how they render it.

Reasonableness/generosity/goodwill/friendliness/magnanimity/charity toward the faults of others/mercy toward the failures of others/indulgence of the failures of others/leniency/bigheartedness/moderation/forbearance, and gentleness are some of the attempts to capture the rich meaning of this word.

This reasonableness has the connotation of graciousness—the graciousness of humility; the humble graciousness that produces the patience to endure injustice, disgrace, and mistreatment without retaliation, bitterness, or vengeance. It is contentment.

Gracious humility runs counter to the cult of self-love that was rampant in ancient society, and is rampant in modern society as well. Focusing on self-love, self-esteem, and self-fulfillment leads to greater and greater instability and anxiety. On the other hand, those whose contentment is not rooted in self cannot be knocked off balance by inequity, injustice, unfair treatment, lies, or humiliation.

A bishop of the early church, who was a remarkable example of the virtue of contentment, was asked his secret. The venerable old man replied: "It consists in nothing more than making a right use of my eyes. In whatever state I am, I first of all look up to heaven and remember that my principal business here is to get there. Then I look down upon the earth, and call to mind how small a place I shall occupy in it when I die and am buried. I then look around in the world, and observe what multitudes there are who are in many respects more unhappy than myself. Thus I learn where true happiness is placed, where all our cares must end, and what little reason I have to complain."

3) Rest in confident faith . Philippians 4:5b-6a

There is no greater source of spiritual stability than the confidence that the Lord is at hand/near. This nearness can mean near in space or near in time. Some take it in a chronological sense, either as a reference to Christ's return (3:20–21; James 5:8),

or nearness in the sense of His presence. He is near both to hear the cry of the believer's heart, and to help and strengthen them.

In Psalm 73:28 the psalmist declared, "The nearness of God is my good." Because of God's nearness, believers should not be fearful, anxious, or wavering. They should not collapse, but be strong and stable. Paul deliberately chose this particular word, "at hand/near," with all its ambiguity precisely to include ideas, of time and of space, together.

Unfortunately, when they face trials, believers often seem to forget what they know about God (Psalm 57:7).

The Lord who is at hand/near is the almighty, true, and living God revealed in Scripture. Those who delight themselves in His holy power, love, and wisdom and cultivate a deep knowledge of Him by studying and meditating on His Word will live by the foundation of that truth and be spiritually stable. Because of the presence of God, believers are to be anxious for nothing. Nothing is outside of His sovereign control or too difficult for Him to handle. There would thus be good reason to rejoice, magnanimously to put up with the harassment of pagans, and to live worry free. It is that the Lord is coming soon to reward the faithful, to punish the evildoers, to heal all ills, and to right all wrongs.

Augustine was once accosted by a non-Christian who showed him his idol and said, "Here is my god; where is thine?" Augustine replied, "I cannot show you my God; not because there is no God to show but because you have no eyes to see Him."

4) React with prayer . Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer is the antidote to worry and the cure for anxiety. The theology of prayer is not in view here, but rather its priority and the attitude the believer brings to it. The three synonyms used here, prayer, supplication, and requests, all refer to specific, direct offerings of petition to God. The assumption of the text is that believers will cry out to God when they have a need or a problem, not with doubting, questioning, or even blaming God, but with thanksgiving. Instead of having a spirit of rebellion against what God allows, believers are to trustingly cast "all [their] anxiety on Him, because He cares for [them]" (1 Peter 5:7).

Thanksgiving gives effect to prayer, and frees from anxious carefulness by making all God's dealings matter for praise, not merely for resignation, much less murmuring.

Paul defines this supernatural peace as that which surpasses all understanding /comprehension. It transcends human intellectual powers, human analysis, human insights, and human understanding. It is superior to human scheming, human devices, and human solutions, since its source is the God whose judgments are unsearchable and whose ways are unfathomable (Rom. 11:33). It is experienced in a transcendent calm that lifts the believer above the most debilitating trial. Since it is a supernatural work, it resists any human understanding/comprehension. The real challenge of the Christian life is not to eliminate every unpleasant circumstance; it is to trust in the good purpose of our infinite, holy, sovereign, powerful God in every difficulty. Those who honor Him by trusting Him will experience the blessings of His perfect peace.

Because the God to whom we pray and offer thanksgiving, whose ways are higher than ours, is also totally trustworthy, our prayer is accompanied by his peace. And that is not because He answers according to our wishes, but because His peace totally transcends our merely human way of perceiving the world. Peace comes because prayer is an expression of trust, and God's people do not need to have it all figured out in order to trust him!

Conclusion

How then do we put this all together? Jowett sums this up well when he said: "Christian joy is a mood independent of our immediate circumstances. If it were dependent on our surroundings, then, indeed, it would be as uncertain as an unprotected candle burning on a gusty night. One moment the candle burns clear and steady, the next moment the blaze leaps to the very edge of the wick, and affords little or no light. But Christian joy has no relationship to the transient setting of the life, and therefore it is not the victim of the passing day. At one time my conditions arrange themselves like a sunny day in June; a little later they rearrange themselves like a gloomy day in November. One day I am at the wedding; the next day I stand by an open grave. One day, in my ministry, I win ten converts for the Lord; and then, for a long stretch of days, I never win one. Yes, the days are as changeable as the weather, and yet the Christian joy can be persistent. Where lies the secret of its glorious persistency? Here is the secret. "Lo! I am with you all the days." In all the changing days, He changeth not, neither is weary. He is no fair weather Companion, leaving me when the year grows dark and cold. He does not choose my days of prosperous festival, though not to be found in my days of impoverishment and defeat. He does not show Himself only when I wear a garland, and hide Himself when I wear a crown of thorns. He is with me "all the days"—the prosperous days and the days of adversity; days when the funeral bell is tolling, and days when the wedding bell is ringing."

Follow Paul's Formula!

Participate with Jesus

Two partners had a clothing store. One would stay in the back room while the other waited on the people. The one waiting on the people would pretend he was hard of hearing. When a customer would choose a suit he liked, he would ask the price. The clerk would call to his partner in the back room, "How much is this suit, Harry?" Harry would reply loud and clear so the customer would be sure to hear, "\$149.00." The clerk would then say, "He said it is \$129.00."

Many people would hurry and buy the suit for \$129.00, thinking they were making a good deal because the person waiting on them did not hear the right price. Little did the customer realize that his greed cost him several dollars. The same suit sold for \$109.00 or less in other places." These two men went to great lengths to assure themselves of a comfortable living at the cost of cheating the public. But do we as children of the light act with the same intensity, the same effort in living for Jesus?

In Luke 16:1-13 Jesus told a parable that's a little difficult for us to understand because it is not a positive parable, but a negative one. This story was not a good example of how we are to live our lives. It's a story about a crook, a dishonest steward who was commended for his dishonesty. He had cheated his boss and was being fired. But before he lost his job, he thought about how he would take care of himself. He was used to a good living and couldn't bear to dig ditches or beg. He decided that the people who owed his boss money would be grateful to him if their bill could be changed. He went to these debtors and asked them to change their bill in their favor. His boss found out about it and instead of becoming angry, he commended this guy for using his head and working to protect his own future.

There is a bit of irony in this story. We aren't to be like the dishonest steward in his dishonest deeds, but we are to be like him in channeling our efforts into completing our Christian responsibilities. Jesus is letting His disciples know that the men of the world are outsmarting the men of light. Jesus is saying the Christian must be as eager and ingenious in his attempt to attain goodness as the men of the world are in their attempts to attain money and comfort. If crooks and those who are only looking out for their own welfare are so ingenious and can act so decisively about things that really don't matter, why do we as Christians seem so casual about the care of our souls? Do we as Christians work hard at our

discipleship in following Jesus? Jesus doesn't want us for only one hour a week on Sunday morning, but he wants every hour every day. He wants our active participation in this relationship.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, November 8, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 11

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 12

R Team.....6:30 pm

Welcome a New Member!

Marie Hren

3302 Woodbine

Saint Joseph, MO 64505

Sunday, November 15, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Gary Yarbrough, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Thanksgiving Dinner and Business Meeting.....Noon

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 18

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 19

O Team.....6:30 pm

Food Pantry at Patee Park

Up-Coming Events.....

November 11 — Veteran's Day

— Prayer Warriors 10 am

November 15 — Thanksgiving Dinner and

Business Meeting at Noon

— Winter Grief Seminar, Stewartsville

November 18 — Collection Day for Operation Christmas Child

November 19 — Food Pantry Day

November 22 — Diversicare Service 2:30 pm

November 23 — Sunday School Workers Meeting

November 26 — Thanksgiving Day (Office will be closed.)

November 29 — December 5—Week of Prayer for

International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight at 6:30 pm. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will be meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Please make plans to attend. Prayer and Bible Study matter!

Prayer Warriors

10 am Wednesday,
November 11

Please join us for this time of
intercessory prayer.

Collection Day:

**Wednesday,
November 18**

Remember to include \$7 for postage.

Winter Grief Seminar
Sunday, November 15, 2015
6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church
109 W. 8th Street, Stewartsville, MO

Counselor Steve Sewell will be covering practical ways to handle grief and depression which hits especially hard during the winter months. A \$10 donation at the door is suggested. Need more info? 816-669-3263

Food Pantry

November 19, is our collection day for Patee Park Food Pantry. You may donate monetarily or you may place your canned or boxed goods in the hallway basket any time.

Thanksgiving Dinner
and— Business Meeting
Sunday, November 15,
at Noon

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we share a meal and also conduct the business of the church.

Diversicare Nursing Home

November 22, 2015 at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

(Correction on Calendar—Please note that November 22 is the correct date for our nursing home visit.)

THANK YOU

Thank you for your recent donation to our food pantry. We appreciate your faithfulness in helping us provide food to the less fortunate.

God Bless You, Maggie Wall, Patee Park Baptist Food Pantry

For the Record

Attendance: November 1, 2015

Sunday School.....	45
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	47
Contacts Made.....	5
Morning Worship.....	60
Children's Worship	10
Sunday Night	10
Wednesday Night	16

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 2,769.87

Offering Received by Mail:

November Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

November Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

November Birthdays:

07...Alva Lou Schottel
13...Shirley Wilson
14...Sam Hoover
16...Nancy McCamy
22...Linda Dotson
23...Floetta Conard
25...Maxine Ferbert
27...Linda Kerns

November Anniversaries

Bill and Donna Dunn

November 3, 1995

Jack and Flo Conard
November 4, 1956
John and Dottie Wildberger
November 23, 1962
Jim and Brigida Winans
November 28, 1975

Prayer Requests ...

Margaret Dotson—stomach cancer
Maxine and George Ferbert
Bill Haskins—recovery
Joyce Izer—knee
Stacy Gray—cancer treatment
Muriel Elder and Family
Ann Riddle—health
Linda Rails—Doris' Richardson's sister
LoLeta's Family in Doug's death
Allen Jennings—recovery
Grant Schottel—advanced training
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Bob Barquist—cancer
Jozy Winans—rehabilitation
Louanne Laurence—Joyce's Mother
Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers
Jim Winans Dorothy Post
Nellie Reynolds Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Opal Roberts
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Lois Pace Susan Patten
Debbie Sands Sue Higgins
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Keon McKahan
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
