



God's Plan for Joy

Jeremiah 31:12-13

Luke 2:10-11

Hebrews 12:1-3

A. The Prophecy of Joy

“They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the LORD—the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they will sorrow no more. Then young women will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.” Jeremiah 31:12-13 (NIV)

1. The hand that wounds, will also heal.

“With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: ‘He is good; His love toward Israel endures forever.’ And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.” Ezra 3:11 (NIV)

2. The hand that dries, will also water.

“The LORD will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” Isaiah 58:11 (NIV)

3. The hand that allows tears will also dry them.

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

B. The Fulfillment of Joy

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

1. The joy of Christ is to be told by all.

“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all people.” Luke 2:10b (NIV)

2. The joy of Christ is meant for humanity.

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.” Luke 2:11a (NIV)

3. The joy of Christ is the foundation of our witness.

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’” Luke 2:15 (NIV)

C. The Responsibility of Joy

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him Who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12:1b-3 (NIV)

1. The joy set before us fuels patience and perseverance.
2. The joy set before us is exemplified through Christ.
 - a. Christ endured the cross.
 - b. Christ endured opposition from the outside world.
 - c. Christ endured the shame.
3. The joy set before us is sustained through Christ.
4. The joy set before us causes great advantage.
 - a. Weariness and fainting are prevented.
 - b. Faith and meditation become available.

Bottom Line:

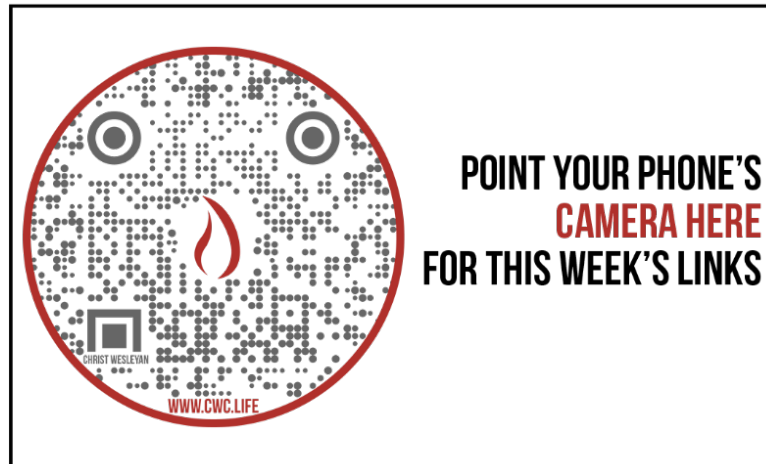
There is a Joy that makes no sense.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: IChooseJesus (*all one word*) to 570-273-0088

Want to take it deeper? Send in a question for the Dive
Deep Podcast to our Online Campus Pastor:
mike.sweigard@cwv.life

Next Sunday:
Foretold: A Plan That Saved the World
Week 3: God's Plan for Love

Milton Campus: Pastor Branden Mestach
Sunbury Campus: Pastor Mike Sweigard



Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 82.3% of goal

Giving year to date: 82.1% of goal

Attendance last Sunday: 2,088

Salvations to date: 80 | Baptisms to date: 76

Upcoming Happenings:

Christmas @ Christ Wesleyan:

Christmas at The Well: December 15th @ 6p

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

Milton Campus: 9:00a, 10:45a, and 5p

Sunbury Campus: 9:00a, 11:00a, and 5p

Notetakers are History Makers