



# LET'S VISIT

A Publication of the Center Church of Christ  
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935

Volume 11

Number 48

December 15, 2024

## REJOICE IN THE LORD!

In the final chapter of Philippians, we find Paul exhorting the brethren. He is exhorting them specifically and generally. In verses one through three, he gives specific exhortations to individuals. He tells them to stand fast in the Lord. Then, in verse four, we find the first of several exhortations which are certainly needful for all Christians.

The passage in the KJV reads, "*Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say, Rejoice.*" Personally, I like the way the passage reads in Philips translation, "*Delight yourselves in God, yes, find your joy in him at all times.*"

The keynote of this epistle is joy. Paul uses the word joy or one of its derivatives no less than 16 times in this short letter. He mentions it in verses 4, 18 and 25 of chapter one and it is actually mentioned twice in verse 18. In chapter two he mentions joy in verses 2, 17, 18, 28 and 29 and it is mentioned twice in verses 17 and 18. He mentions it in verse 1 of chapter three and in verses 1, 4 and 10 of chapter four with it being mentioned twice in verse 4.

This joy in the Lord is a joy to be experienced always. It is not just an occasional experience for exceptional people. We are to rejoice in darkness as well as light, in prosperity and adversity as well as in trials and triumphs.

Paul was one of God's choicest saints. He found joy in his prayers. He found joy in the proclamation of the gospel even under adverse circumstances. He found joy in the unity of the saints as well as the prospect of being a martyr for Christ. Paul found joy in the love of the brethren, for truly Paul rejoiced always.

Though we may sometimes find temporary joy, abiding joy is found in the Lord. Some might find joy in the sensual pleasures of this life or in the

acquisition of material possessions. But the real joy, the joy that lasts, comes from a personal, living and fruitful relationship with Jesus Christ. You see, it is in the Lord that we enjoy peace with God, help in temptations and the assurance of God's companionship in times of trial.

As much as we desire this joy, there are often hindrances to abiding joy. There is the memory of past failures and the awareness of present faults. This often can leave folks in a state of discouragement or depression. Yet, in this letter in chapter three and verses 12 through 14 Paul provides a solution to this dilemma. He tells them that forgetting the things in the past He is pressing on to the future.

Yet, with some people, their natural temperament of disposition may hinder abiding joy. Some people are just naturally melancholy. They may be genetically predisposed to this attitude or it may be through environmental influences while growing up. However, in Jesus Christ we can be transformed.

To rejoice in the Lord always does not mean we are insensitive to the harsh realities of life. It means that in spite of what life brings to us, we know that radiant joy is found in the Lord. When our relationship with Jesus Christ is what it ought to be, we will have this abiding joy that Paul talks about.

tp

### In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSHV 45 – Shreveport – 7:30 a.m. Sunday  
KSLA 12 – Shreveport – 11:00 a.m. Sunday  
DISH channel 373 – 7:00 a.m. Sunday  
DIRECT TV channel 83 – 7:00 a.m. Sunday

# Gathered Here and There



## No Vacancy!

**For The Pantry. . .  
December 15 – Rice**

**Offering – December 18 2024. . . \$ 3,471.00**

**The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"**

## A TREMENDOUS DAY!

This past Sunday was our annual "No Excuse Sunday:" and it was a great day to the Glory of God at the Center Church of Christ. We had 58 precious souls present for worship this past Sunday. I looked back over the records for the past ten years and this is the largest audience we have had during that period for our "No Excuse Sunday". Not only that, of those 58 souls who were present for worship, 53 stayed for our luncheon and a time of fellowship. Truly, it was a wonderful day. As we have said on many occasions, the best, and brightest days, the greatest days of the Lord's Church in Center, Texas are still out there in the future.

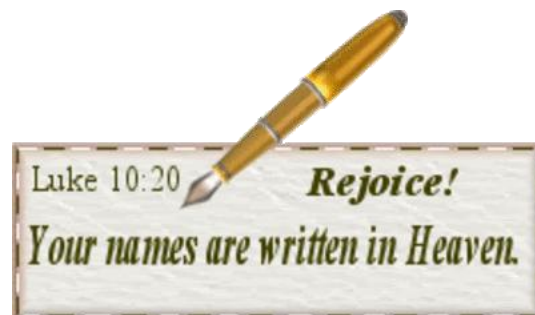
We had a great luncheon, everyone outdid themselves in preparing delicious food and dessert and it was an enjoyable feast. You could tell by the conversations and laughter that everyone was having a good time eating and fellowshiping with one another.

We commend the ladies serving on the Hospitality Group for their hard work in decorating, serving and cleaning up the mess. Your labor and hard work is appreciated more than we have the words to express.

We also commend every member of this congregation for their commitment in being present, inviting others and participating in the work of the local church. Truly it was a wonderful day and we

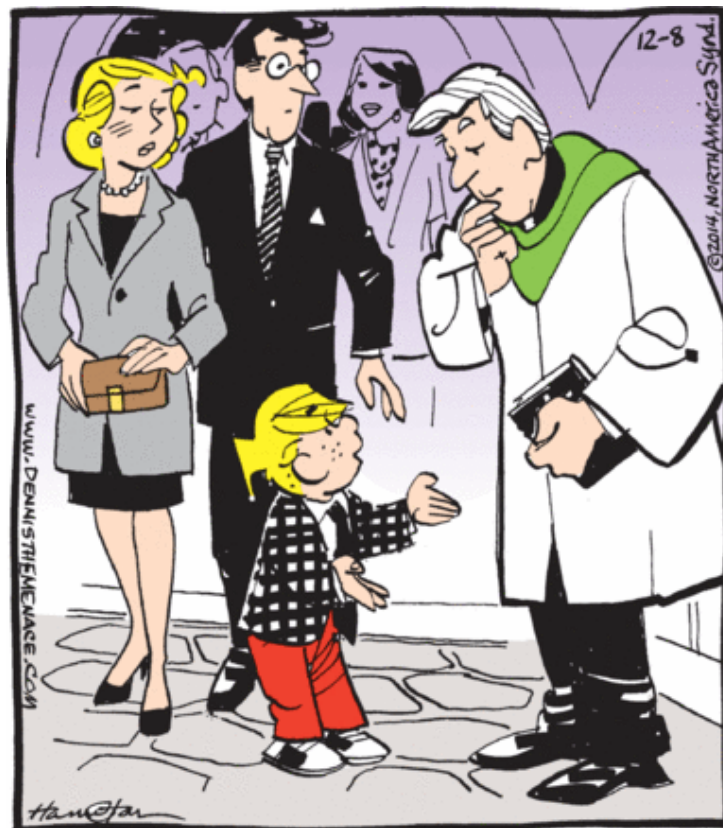
rejoice and thank God and look forward to bigger and better days in the future as we serve the God of Heaven.

tp



We rejoice with Mike and Jana O'Brien. Over the Thanksgiving Holiday, Mike had the privilege and honor of baptizing their son Andrew into Christ. We congratulate him on this decision and rejoice with Mike and Jana.

## On The Lighter Side. . .



**"YOU SEEM TO KNOW EVERYONE. YOU GOT ANY PULL WITH SANTA CLAUS?"**



OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Cody Anthony (LaResa Livingston's nephew) Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother), Jackie Barnes (Friend of Gene & Martha Bradshaw) Cohen Byrnes (infant son of Trey and Alex Byrnes) Hugh and Pat Fletcher (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) Geneva Harrison (Mike Bostick's mother) Debbie Lynn (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Kutter Milford (Cissy Amos' grandson) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); Heather Simmons Steward (Friend of Cissy Amos ) cancer; J. C. Tate (Jana O'Brien's father) Clark Paul Williams (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

**TODAY!**

**Sunday December 15, 2024**

**Immediately following the morning worship in the Fellowship Hall.**

**We hope you are making plans to stay and join us!**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES**

**There will be no Wednesday Night Services:**

**Wednesday, December 25, 2024  
Wednesday January 1, 2025**

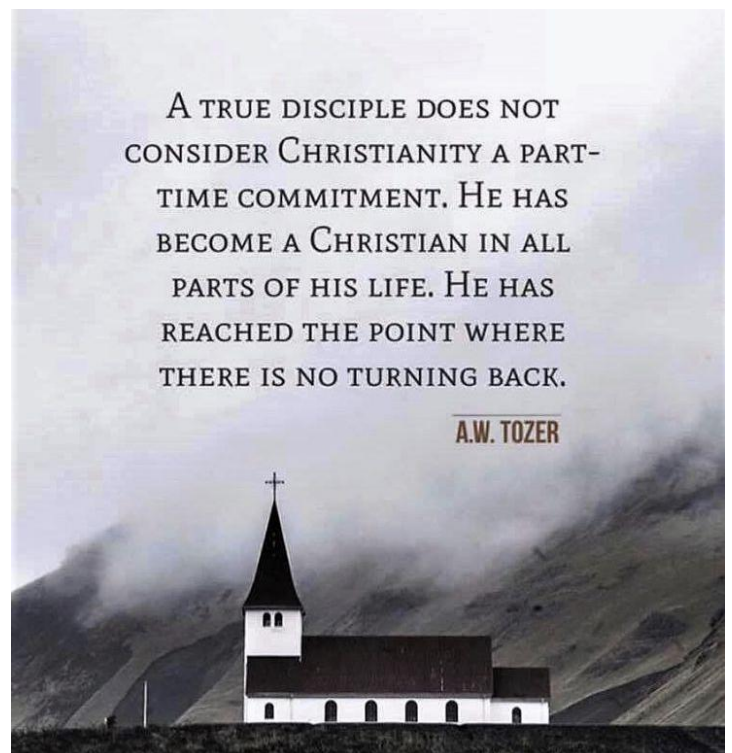
\* \* \* \* \*

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**March 2, 2025 – "Pack-A-Pew Sunday"**  
**April 25-27, 2025 – Area-Wide Singing and Gospel meeting with Phil Sanders.**  
**June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon**  
**PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

A TRUE DISCIPLE DOES NOT CONSIDER CHRISTIANITY A PART-TIME COMMITMENT. HE HAS BECOME A CHRISTIAN IN ALL PARTS OF HIS LIFE. HE HAS REACHED THE POINT WHERE THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.

A.W. TOZER





## Across The Preacher's Desk

Did you ever wake up early Sunday morning, the neighbors are all in bed, the streets are quiet and the yards are empty? The world is asleep as you prepare for worship on the Lord's day. Did you ever leave dishes in the sink, a blouse un-ironed and the floors un-swept to visit a sick friend, run an errand for someone who was confined to home? Did you ever say no to a social gathering for all day on the Lord's Day? Well, that's what you get for being a Christian.

Did you ever work with a group of people who use profanity, live loose lives morally, who think you are strange because you are a Christian and not like they are?

All of that is what you get for being a Christian. Yet, think what is yours for being a Christian:

You are a child of the King.

You are loved and cared for.

You have a peace and happiness the world does not know and cannot take away.

You shall inherit eternal life.

You have a Father to whom you can take all your unresolved problems. A Father who abolishes fear and doubt.

All of those things are yours when you become a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, living His kind of life, His way.

*it's something to think about.....tbp*

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
54 in '24!**