

Empire Church of the Brethren
Sunday Service Sermons

27 October 2024

Bringing Joy in Heaven and on Earth.

Text: I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." *Luke 15:7*

I would add: For they were dead and now they are alive.

For life is found in and through God.

To have God is to be alive.

To not have God is to be dead.

We most likely forget this in our Christian living.

For we have been alive and find it normal.

Most people living without God know deep down inside that there is something missing or something more that they do not have.

Joy and peace, real Joy and real Peace only come from a life with God.

What fills your heart with joy?

For me it is knowing that I am in the middle of God's will for my life.

Once I realized that I was not directing my life, because it was not going in the direction I planned, I relaxed and enjoyed the ride, so to speak.

I became an observer as well as a participator.

That is, I watched as God directed my life.

I had a very different life planned out for me and mine.

But under my picture in my 8th grade yearbook is the word minister.

Deep down inside I wanted to be a farmer, preacher like my grandfather.

And guess what? I am.

God gives us the desires of our heart so be careful what your heart desires.

What gives a person great joy?

How much joy do we have and how much joy do we bring to others?

In this last week what gave you joy and what did you do to increase the joy in someone else?

Helping someone do a task that they need done but do not enjoy doing can increase the joy of another person.

When Jesus entered this world the angels proclaimed good news of great joy.

And this joy was for all people.

The joy was that in the town of David a Savior was born and he is Christ the Lord.

A child gets joy from a new toy.

A student gets joy from a good grade.

To a farmer it is a good harvest.

Young people are looking for a good career.

Our homes should be a place of joy.

If love reigns supreme there.

The Scripture for today claims that it is possible for us to bring joy to those who are in heaven as well as to those who are on earth.

God also invites us to find the joy of being the means whereby the lost may experience salvation.

This parable tells us that God needs our faithful cooperation in finding the lost sheep and thus bringing joy to the heart of the Shepherd and to all those associated with him.

There can be joy in heaven and on earth when a sinner repents.

The parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son provides us with a picture of God's

heartbreak over lost things.

God sees the lost world and the sheep that have gone astray.

Satan has been saying to humanity from the dawn of human history that God is not good and that he cannot be trusted.

People have listened to these lies and have gone astray.

God sees us as lost valuables.

We are of supreme value to God.

He loves us so much that he gave his Son to die for us.

God sees a lost world as lost sons and daughters bent on a pathway of self-destructiveness and ruin.

Satan would lead everyone to believe that there is something better than the Father's will and the Father's home, and many have believed these lies.

God sees all of us as those who need to repent.

Repentance in the mind and heart is the human response that brings joy in heaven and on earth.

Repentance is a religious word that needs to be better understood by people today.

Repentance is more than sadness for sin.

Repentance is more than reformation.

Repentance is more than a simple decision to walk a straight and narrow path.

Repentance is a deep inward change of mind that results in a different kind of life and conduct.

It is a change of attitude toward God, sin, self, others, and things.

Repentance is a change of attitude and direction that produces joy in heaven and on earth.

We are able to repent, that is, to come to a new attitude toward God, when we hear the good news of how he loves us in and through Jesus The Christ.

The joy of heaven and earth.

There is joy in the heart of the sheep that is found.

Forgiveness is experienced.

Spiritual cleanness is enjoyed.

Acceptance by God is a fact.

New relationships are formed.

A new nature is received.

An appetite for spiritual things develops.

Assurance of a heavenly home brings joy.

There is joy in the family of God when a person repents.

The church rejoices.

A larger circle of friends rejoices

Everyone in the family circle rejoices.

There is joy in heaven when one repents.

Jesus speaks of the fact that "there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents".

God the Father rejoices.

God the Son, our savior, rejoices.

God the Holy Spirit rejoices.

The angels of God rejoice.

What can we do to produce joy in heaven?

We need to let genuine Christian compassion come into our hearts.

We need to let the love that God has for sinners invade our total being.

We need to recognize the supreme value of spiritual values.

We must aggressively proclaim the good news of a God who is good to the lost prodigals who are out in the world.

We the spirit-filled followers of Christ must be good models so as to serve as lights in a dark place and as the salt that creates thirst.

We must cooperate together as the church in ministries of outreach, mercy, and helpfulness.

We must personally obey the Great Commission of our Lord in our individual worlds.

We must trust the Holy Spirit of God to take our testimonies and use them to bring about faith in

the hearts of those who need to come to Jesus Christ.

How long has it been since you did something to bring joy in heaven?

You brought joy to heaven when you trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.

You have produced joy in heaven if you have helped someone else trust in Christ as Lord and Savior.

You can bring joy in heaven if you help someone return to the Father's house with an attitude of trust and commitment.

God the Father hungers to see the lost, found, restored, and renewed by his Holy spirit.

Let us rejoice in the opportunity that is ours to produce joy both in heaven and on earth.

Who do you know that needs to come to Jesus or to walk closer to Him every day.

It is for us to help that happen by telling how God walks with us each day.

Helping us to be the person he created us to be.

God does the work through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

It is for us to accept his offer to make us over into the person he wants us to be.

And then to share this good fortune with others so that they can come into the family of God along with us.

Blessings now and forever more.