

**PRAYERS & ENCOURAGEMENT**

Those who are sick or need our prayers — Joe, Turner, Kaylee Dolan, J Hughes, Linda Reagan

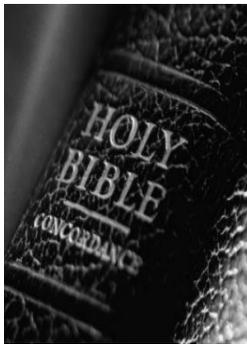
Continue to remember in your prayers those who are unable to attend worship services regularly: *Faye Roberts, Freda Dunn, Romona Stokes, and Marjorie Barringer, J. Hughes, Billie Sue Atkins.*

Please pray for those who have forsaken the Lord that they may be reconciled to God.

**READING THE OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS IN ONE YEAR**

*Monday - Gen 1-2; Psalm 19; Mark 1*  
*Tuesday - Gen 3-5; Mark 2*  
*Wednesday - Gen 6-8; Psalm 104; Mark 3*  
*Thursday - Gen 9-11; Mark 4*  
*Friday - Gen 12-15; Psalm 148; Mark 5*

**Week #1**  
**Jan. 1 – Jan. 5**



**VISITORS** - We would like to get to know you better, and ask that you stay a while after services. We encourage you to visit our website at <http://www.parkhillchurchofchrist.com> where you will find sermons, articles, and daily bible studies to encourage you in your daily walk with God.

**QUESTIONS?** *We Welcome the opportunity to study God’s word with you any time.*

*All sermons are recorded on CD & DVD -  
If you would like a copy, please ask one of the men.*

**ELDERS**

Carl Dolan....479.414.1972 ~ Ron Roberts ....479.452.0347 ~ Randy Sexton.....479.763.4524

**DEACONS**

Wayne Carson...479.648.1087 ~ Luke Dolan.....479.357.9547 ~ Joe Dugas .....479.629.4046 ~ David Meek.....479.459.0820 ~

**PREACHER**

Bryan Loughmiller.....479.434.3939

**December 31, 2017**

**THINK ON THESE THINGS**

*Welcome to the Park Hill Church of Christ*

3536 GRINNELL AVENUE FORT SMITH, AR 72908 479.782.2415

*It is our desire to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to glorify Him in all we do.*

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

SUNDAY MORNING	SUNDAY EVENING	WEDNESDAY EVENING
Bible Study.....9:30 am	Worship..... 5:00pm	Bible Study.....7:00pm
Worship.....10:15 am		

**Joy**



“There is no virtue in the Christian life which is not made radiant with joy,” wrote William Barclay. “There is no circumstance and no occasion which is not illuminated with joy. A joyless life is not a Christian life, for joy is the one constant in the recipe of Christian living.”

The word of the week is joy. God’s people should be a joyful people. Christianity is not meant to suck the joy of life and leave us listless, disconsolate, and dispirited. In fact, the spirit of joy is one of the great qualities that define the personality of a follower of Christ.

Consider these New testament references.

When Jesus was born the angel said, **“I bring you good tidings of great joy that will be to all people.”** (Lk. 2:10).

In John 15:11 Jesus said, **“these things I have spoken that My joy may remain in you.”**

Following Jesus, resurrected from the dead, Mary and Mary Magdalene ran **“with great joy”** to the tell the disciples.”

After the ascension, the disciples went back to Jerusalem with **“great joy”** (Lk.24:52).

When Jesus was preached in Samaria, it says there was **“great joy in that city”** (Ac. 8:8)

And after the Ethiopian Treasurer obeyed the gospel, **he went on his way rejoicing.**

When the pagan jailer in Ac 16 was baptized **“he rejoiced”**

It is little wonder then that 18 times in the book of Philippians Paul speaks of joy or rejoicing. He speaks of the **“joy of faith.”** (1:25)

There is a common thread in the Christian’s joy. Jesus! Jesus brings joy! The religion of Jesus is a joyful religion. Salvation gives birth to Joy. Receiving God’s grace produces joy. In fact, there is a connection with grace and joy.

The Greek word for joy is “chara.” It means gladness, calm, delight or joy. Closely related is the word for grace—“charis.” Charis is “that which bestows on occasion pleasure, delight, or causes favorable regard.”

When grace and truth came in the person of Jesus, so did joy. True joy. Real joy. Genuine joy. Not superficial feelings of happiness. While we may use the words interchangeably, there is a difference between joy and happiness.

**Happiness is based on circumstances, but Joy is rooted substance.** Happiness may be about things. Joy is about Christ.

**Happiness is external, but Joy is internal.** Physical and material things may make us happy, but joy comes from the heart. The soul. The inner person.

**Happiness is based on chance, but Joy on choice.** The word “happy” comes from an old English word “hap” which means luck, chance or accident. Joy is a decision. A determination of the will.

**Happiness is temporary, but Joy is timeless!** Feelings of happiness will ebb and flow, but joy is constant. Unbounded! Unmoved! Eternal!

Christians are too often guilty of allowing “joy killers” to rob life of its radiance. Worry. Unresolved guilt. Selfishness. Resentment. Fear. These sap our spiritual strength. Drain our spirits. Diminish our joy. Instead replace these negative emotions with faith. Forgiveness. Unselfishness. Acceptance. Courage.

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, “This is true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish,

selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.”

Jesus came to give us an abundant life. But a meaningful life. A purpose-driven life. A joyful life. Even when we must endure pain, problems, or persecution. So, regardless of what happens we can echo the words of the apostle Peter:

*“...Rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.”* (1 Pet 4:13-14).

–Ken Weliever, The Preacherman

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## ***Brief Thoughts***

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***Prov 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate."***



The writer of this proverb, Solomon, begins in the prior verse by personifying wisdom. As wisdom speaks it begins with these words "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" and then lists the evils of pride, arrogance and the perverse mouth. These are not mentioned to provide a complete list of all things that are evil but generalize for us where sin originates within each one of us. All evil thoughts, words and actions begin within the heart of the individual and then proceed out of the mouth and are placed into action.

As the child of God grows and matures the inner man's fear of God (faith, trust) cause him to change his attitude toward sin. It changes from being a willing participant in sin to an abrupt hatred of sin and causes one to cease from practicing that former conduct. No longer will I participate in what separated me from God but I will only desire to draw closer to Him by godly and righteous living. The thief will steal no more but work to provide for himself. The adulterer will be a faithful spouse. The abusive parent will become a tenderhearted, loving and gentle mother or father. The person consumed with addiction will take responsibility for their actions and be sober minded in all daily living.

Hating what God hates does not make you a bad person. It is a distinguishable characteristic of being His child.