

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all

TAUGHT OF GOD

Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father cometh unto me.

www.oakridgecoc.com

John 6:45

Times of Service

Sunday Morning

Bible Study - 9:30am

Worship - 10:15am

Sunday Evening

Worship - 5:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Study - 7:00pm

Contact Information

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Nathan Hale

Minister

A Life of Peace and Joy

Most people want a life filled with peace and joy. It is only natural to seek happiness, but many seek it in all manner of places and cannot find it. Maybe you have been seeking the same thing and have found it difficult in your own life. Why? For many, it is because they are not seeking the One who can offer true peace and joy. To have this type of life, there are some things we must do.

HOW CAN I LIVE A LIFE OF PEACE AND JOY?

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” -Romans 14:17

The reason many people cannot find a life of peace and joy is because they seek it in the wrong things. Some people try to gain wealth and trust in their riches, some seek the acceptance of others and place that goal above everything else. According to Paul, peace and joy are found in the Kingdom. Notice what he says the kingdom is. It consists of righteousness, that is, right conduct toward others and right living from day to day. It consists of peace, that is, conducting ourselves in such a way as to promote peace in the church, in our communities, and in our home. It consists of joy, that is, happiness and contentment with our lot in this life. We bear our trials in joy and we do all things without complaint. Finally, Paul says that all these things are through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit produces these things in our hearts through the Word of God.

Let's dig a little deeper into Paul's description of the kingdom. He said first, the Kingdom is righteousness. What does that mean? What is righteousness? Put simply, it is doing the will of God. We must obey God's will if we are to be accepted of Him. *“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” -Acts 10:34-35*

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If we are going to have true peace and joy, we must be pleasing to God. To do this, we seek to know His will and obey it. God has told us in His Word how to be added to His church. He has told us how to live, how to treat others, and how to worship Him.

We are added to His church when we are obedient to the Gospel of Christ. It is recorded that on the day of Pentecost, God added to the church those who were being saved (Acts 2:47) after they had gladly received the Word and were baptized (Acts 2:41).

We worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) That is, with the right attitude and the right actions. You'll remember that Paul said the Kingdom was righteousness. If we are not obedient to God's will, we cannot be righteous, we cannot be at peace, and we will not have true joy.

Look back at Romans 14:17. Next, Paul says that the Kingdom is peace. What is true peace? Is it peace with our family? Is it getting along with our neighbors? Is it a world where there are no wars? Any of these would be great things, but the peace we seek is with God.

"But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The Word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all:)" -Acts 10:35-36

It has already been noted that the only way to have peace with God is to be obedient to His will. God wants more from us than simply refraining from wicked things. He wants us to be doing good. *"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:" -Romans 2:10*

I may sail smoothly through this life, but if I am not reconciled to God, I do not have true peace. *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and*

hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;" -2 Corinthians 5:18

Paul says the Kingdom is peace because the only place we can be reconciled to God and thus have true peace with Him is in His Kingdom.

The last thing that is recorded in Romans 14:17 that Paul mentions describing the Kingdom is joy. The Kingdom is joy. This is more than just being happy. It is defined as inner happiness that perseveres despite outward turmoil. When we face trials and tribulations in this life, it is a blessing to know that these things are only temporary. What a joy to know that there is a place to which we are going where there will be neither trials nor tribulations.

Jesus said, *"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in Heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets."* -Luke 6:22-23

What brings us joy is the knowledge that when this life is over, we are going to be in Heaven.

Righteousness, peace, and joy are produce by the Spirit. In the inspired revelation of the Gospel, He provided us with the information and commands which lead to these things.

When I was younger I did not grasp the concept of living a life of peace and joy. I was constantly worried that I had done something to cause me to lose my salvation. While the Bible does not teach that once we are saved we are always saved, it does teach that I can know that I am saved because I live according to God's will. That knowledge gives me peace and joy.

-Nathan Hale

Oak Ridge

CHURCH of CHRIST

Gospel Meeting

with B.J. Clarke

A Life of Peace and Joy

April 26th - 29th, 2015



Sunday A.M. Bible Study 9:30am

The Joy of Being A Christian.....Nathan Hale

Sunday A.M. Worship 10:15am

A Life of Peace And Joy (Part 1): A Christian's Relationship with God.....Nathan Hale

Sunday P.M. Worship 2:00pm

A Life of Peace and Joy (Part2): A Christian's Relationship with Man.....Nathan Hale

Monday Evening 7:00pm

Looking for Peace And Joy In All The Wrong Places.....B.J. Clarke

Tuesday Evening 7:00pm

How The Prince of Peace Can Give You Peace.....B.J. Clarke

Wednesday Evening 7:00pm

How To Rejoice With Joy Unspeakable.....B.J. Clarke


On Sunday, there will be a fellowship meal following the morning worship service and Gospel Singing at 1:00pm.

For more information or directions call Nathan Hale at (662)214-2418 or visit our website www.oakridgecoc.com.

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News & Notes

- Personal Bible Studies and Correspondence Courses are available upon request. Whether you are interested in those or just want to know more about the Oak Ridge church of Christ, you can call Nathan at (662)214-2418 or email us at oakridgecoc@gmail.com for more information.
- We invite you to come and worship with us any time you have the opportunity. You will be our honored guest.
- You can find audio sermons and written articles on the web at www.oakridgecoc.com

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EDDM

Current Resident