## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

The week of Sunday, April 5

***Last week's sermon & this homework can be found at gbcmt.org/sermons or on the GBC App*

**Prayer and Praise:**

Begin your time together by reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16. With the effects of the coronavirus pandemic causing so much sorrow, what are some reasons for rejoicing?

As you go to prayer, spend some time praising God for His sovereign control of the universe. Also spend some time praying that we as Christians would respond to this crisis in hope-filled trust, Christ-like love, and bold evangelism. Then, together sing *#410 – It Is Well with My Soul.*

**Together in the Word:**

1. What are some things in life that might cause believers to stop rejoicing?

2. Read Matt.5:10-12; Acts 5:40-41; Acts 16:25. Why do you suppose the individuals in these passages were able to rejoice even in the midst of suffering?

3. What is a biblical definition of joy?

4. What are some characteristics/works of God that ought to cause the believer to rejoice in the midst of this current pandemic?

5. Of the ten reasons given as to why believers lack joy, which of them are you more prone to?

# DON'T STOP REJOICING

Selected Scriptures

The following are questions designed to facilitate greater learning and deeper understanding of spiritual truths presented in the sermon **"Don't Stop Rejoicing."** All questions are answered as the sermon is presented. We hope that it will be a catalyst to spiritual growth in your life.

1. Because of all the hardship and upheaval created by this virus, it would be easy for us to lose what?

2. What verse is the shortest verse in the Greek New Testament?

3. Verses 12-28 of this 5th chapter of 1st Thessalonians are all about the what?

4. Verses 12-13 deal with the relationship between what two entities?

5. What verses deal with the relationship between people within the congregation?

6. Verses 16 and following deal with the relationship between people and whom?

7. Coming off the exhortations to warn, strengthen, uphold, be patient, and forbear, Paul says to do what?

8. As Paul begins to deal with our relationship to God, his starting point is what?

9. One of the reasons many flocks aren't healthy and strong as they ought to be is because many of the sheep don't what?

10. There is nothing that can happen in our lives that should extinguish what?

11. If something happens that does extinguish our joy, then we have what?

12. Where do we find the double emphasis to rejoice always?

13. In 2 Corinthians 6:10 Paul said he was sorrowful yet doing what?

14. When the Apostles were arrested and threatened to stop talking about Jesus, they did what?

15. How many times in the Upper Room Discourse, did Jesus mention joy or full joy?

16. Paul uses the word "joy" (or a form of that word) 16 times in what book?

17. What did Paul rejoice in, as seen in Colossians 1:24?

18. If we keep the right perspective, we can even rejoice in the what?

19. The kind of joy Bryan is talking about is produced by the Holy Spirit. But, it is not produced in your life against what?

20. Fill in the blanks: "Joy is the gladness of heart that comes from the deep _____ that God is in complete _____ of our circumstances and He uses those circumstances for our _____ and His _____."

21. The joy God speaks of in the Bible is a response that stems from a what?

22. The basis for our joy is the what?

23. The psalmist in Psalm 16 was glad and rejoiced because he contemplated what?

24. God's name stands for His what?

25. We not only rejoice based on who God is, but we also rejoice because of what?

26. What passages support the answer to number 25?

27. We also rejoice because of the what within us?

28. If we belong to Christ, then we can't what?

29. God has given us His what and that gives us even more reason to rejoice?

30. We can also rejoice always because of the what that God has given us?

31. What is the first reason for a lack of joy?

32. A second reason for a lack of joy is the what?

33. What steals our joy?

34. God has given us His word, not only for our instruction, but also for what?

35. A fourth reason for a lack of joy is what?

36. What is a fifth reason for a lack of joy?

37. What kills joy?

38. A sixth reason for a lack of joy is what?

39. What did Jesus promise in John 16:33?

40. A seventh reason for a lack of joy is what?

41. The most miserable people in the world are those who are what?

42. Emotionally healthy people don't listen to themselves, they do what?

43. What is an eighth reason for a lack of joy?

44. Have you forgotten all of the Lord's benefits?

45. A ninth reason for a lack of joy is a failure to what?

46. What is a tenth reason for a lack of joy?

47. True joy is an emotion on top of what?

48. Are you rejoicing, even in the midst of a tough time?

Remember: Your responsibility, by God's enabling, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Philippians 2:12-13; I Timothy 4:7-9; James 1:22-27). As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions:

- How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?
- How can I accomplish this change?
- What is the first step toward bringing about this change?