



TRUE LIGHT

Baptist Church

DECEMBER 2011

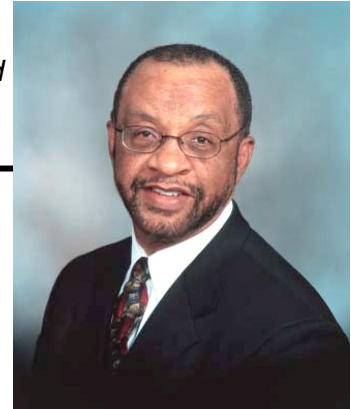


A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

"THE ENJOYMENT OF LIFE"

"I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor--it is the gift of God." (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13)

Many think happiness and enjoyment of life is dependent upon having a certain amount of money, a certain status, a certain this, or that. In reality, to enjoy life at whatever your social, economic, or other status is a gift of God. To enjoy life is a state of mind and contentment that only God can give. The question each of us is called to answer is **"Are you truly enjoying life?"**



Enjoying life is not entirely a matter of your circumstances but your attitude (vs. 12). The apostle Paul knew something that some of us have missed. He learned the secret of being content in and through the best and worst circumstances. It was not the secret of changing, or getting God to change his circumstances. Real contentment does not hinge on circumstances. It goes beyond that. What is the secret of contentment? From what Paul says, I believe it has to do with our willingness to accept three powerful truths.

First, real contentment hinges on what's happening inside us, not around us. We are all tempted to believe the lie that our contentment or our happiness hinges on our ability to control what is going on around us. We spend a great deal of energy and time trying to control our environment and the people in it. However, real contentment has to do with what's going on inside us, not around us.

As long as our contentment can be destroyed by a change in our environment, we can never be content in any circumstance, because without a doubt our circumstances will change. To experience contentment, we must begin by refusing to blame our circumstances (or the people who make up our circumstances) for our lack of contentment. As long as we blame what's going on around us, we will never understand what is happening in us.

Second, contentment is need, not want, oriented. Much of our discontentment stems from not getting what we want. God has not promised to meet all of your wants according to His riches in glory. As long as our peace and joy hinges on getting what we want, we are on an emotional roller

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coaster.

God is a perfect heavenly Father. He knows what you don't need. He knows what you want. He knows what you can handle. Moreover, He is committed to doing what's best for you.

This brings us to the third truth we must accept if we are to learn Paul's secret; contentment is a matter of trust. If we really trust God-if we really believe He loves us and has our best interest in mind-when things fall apart around us; things don't have to fall apart inside us. Contentment is trusting God even when things seem out of control.

Paul's faith in God allowed him to say, "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*" (Phil, 4:13). Later in the same chapter, He says "*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*" He trusted God completely. He had a relationship with the Lord. When things around him fell apart, he trusted, and consequently, he was content.

When circumstances rob us of our peace and joy, we must take responsibility. We must acknowledge that we are looking to what we cannot control to provide us with our contentment. Only then can we begin to look in the right direction for our contentment. We must look to Jesus for contentment regardless of our circumstances. No matter what's going on around us, He is the real source of our peace and joy

Christmas is a time of rejoicing, but it also a time that we may feel much discontent. For many, it will also be a time of sadness. Sadness that they do not have all they would like, or are unable to give and share all they would like. If you are going to enjoy the holidays, if you are going to enjoy life, you must find contentment and be able to rejoice in your circumstance whatever it may be. Rejoicing has more to do with resources than with what you have now.

Enjoying life means that we must have an attitude of rejoicing in spite of our circumstance, but it also includes doing good to others. Doing good at Christmas time is about giving. In the spiritual realm, Christmas is

based on an exchange of gifts: the gift of God to man-his Son, Jesus Christ, and the gift of man to God. We have given best when we first give ourselves to God and then give ourselves in service to our fellow man.

We are mistaken if we think we were born for ourselves. No; it is our business *to do good*; it is in doing good that there is the truest pleasure. There is nothing more Christian than the acknowledgement that we are called to serve one another. Jesus said of himself in Matt 20:28 (NKJV) "*the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*"

"Are you truly enjoying life?" True enjoyment and fulfillment in life is about more than your circumstance or your situation, it's about the attitude you have. Real enjoyment of life is a gift from God.

To enjoy life is tied to simple pleasures. The ability to enjoy life comes as a gift of God. It is a gift from God to find satisfaction in your work. It is a gift from God to be content with the house you live in and the car you drive. It is a gift of God to love and value time with those you love and care about rather than all the gifts bestowed upon them.

This time of year challenges us to think about what is important--relationships. Some people will give gifts to people they don't really like, because they will receive a gift from them and reciprocating is just the thing to do. However, formulating a better relationship would seem to be a more valuable gift than a pair of socks. Maybe this Christmas you ought to send someone a card and say my gift to you is that I will be a better friend. Maybe send your boss a card and say that this coming year you are going to be a better employee. Tell your spouse; my gift to you is that I commit myself to being a better husband or wife. Young people tell your parents, my gift to you is that I am going to be a better son or daughter: get my homework done, do my chores without having to be asked, honor you as God has called me to do. Those are simple things, but significant things if said with sincerity of heart and committed to God's help. I guarantee they will be more appreciated in the end than any other gifts you can buy.

We ought to enjoy the very act of living. Even the common things must be received as gifts of God. He gives us the strength of body and mind to work for a living. He gives us the ability to be content with what we earn by our own efforts, be it meager or great.

There is nothing better for a person, than to enjoy the simple but essentials of life. This is a gift from the hand of God.

This Christmas season let us not concentrate on our lack. Let us concentrate on what's really important--relationships. In all your giving, or if you have nothing at all to give Sit down and consider what's most needful in the relationship that you have with someone, and with pen and paper in hand, commit yourself to them as a gift that can last a lifetime.

Let us *rejoice, and enjoy the simple things in life; it is the gift of God.* Let us enjoy God in all that we do. Let us taste his love, return him thanks, and make him the center of our joy. Let us partake of the simple things in life to his glory, and serve him with joyfulness of heart.

Some folks will do without many things this Christmas. Some will have no gifts, no Christmas dinner, and not be surrounded by family and friends. All they may have are the essentials of life. Yet, many will be happier than those who will spend thousands of dollars will.

Some of you live in beautiful house where you would give up much just to know that your spouse truly loves you. Some of you would give much to have children that are obedient. For some of you the greatest gift would be to get out from under the mound of debt that is daily choking the life out of you, your marriage, and your family.

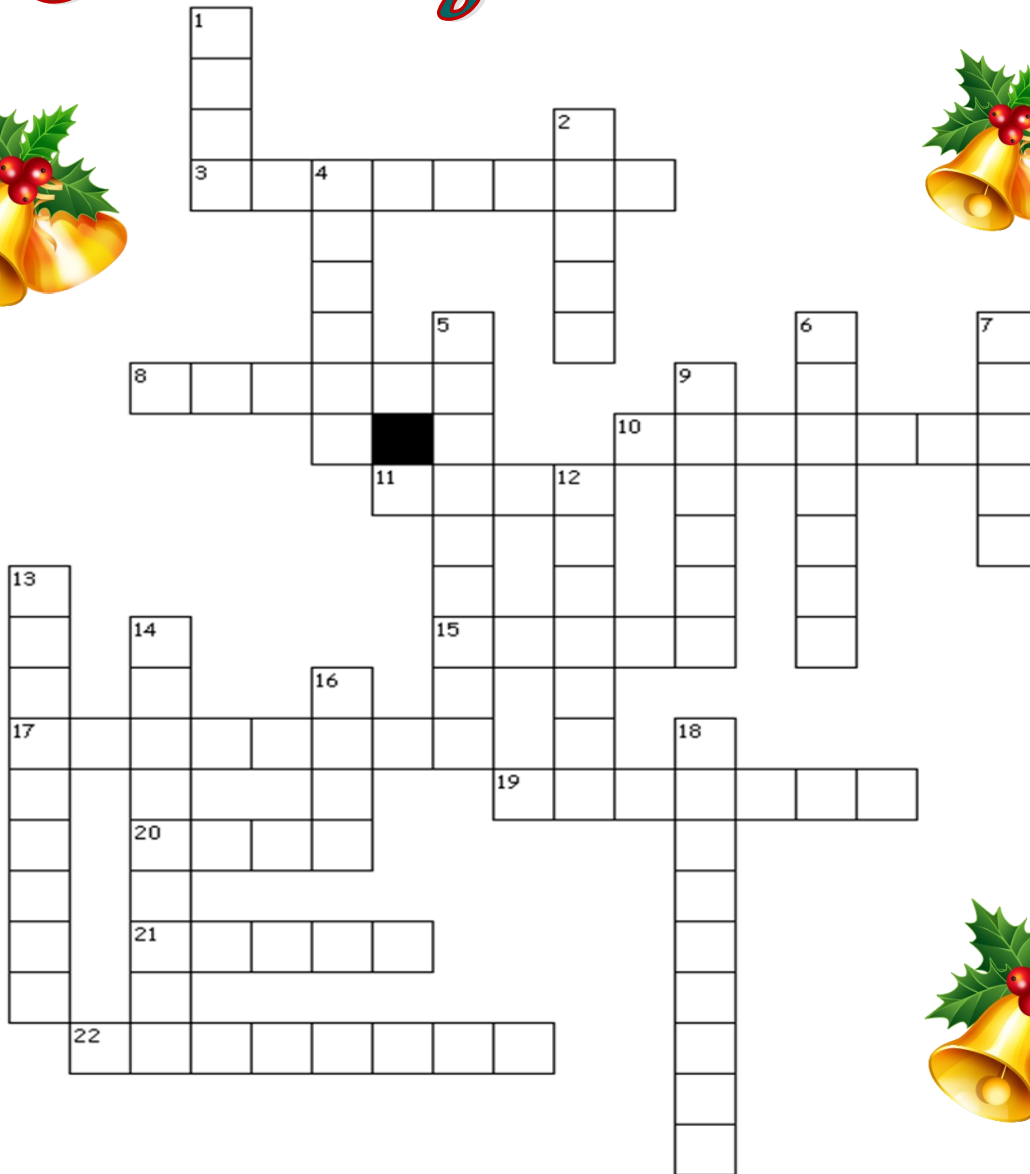


Mother Teresa said, "You will never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you've got." For some this Christmas Jesus is just about all they will have, but he's really all we need. Whatever your situation, whatever your circumstance, if you don't already have him you need to have Jesus. If you have Jesus then you really have all you need.

We want for many things in life, and that's not a bad thing. I believe that God want his children to prosper. However, much of what we want does not bring any real and lasting satisfaction. Some of us will have the best of everything that life can offer but still not be able to enjoy life. Some of our children are often satisfied with a toy only for a moment before moving on to something else. Some of our children will be disappointed because they did not get the right color, the right brand, or the right toy. Real enjoyment of life is a gift of God. You will never begin to enjoy life fully until you are in a relationship with Jesus. You can try to fill the emptiness with items but there is no real satisfaction or enjoyment until you are in relationship with Him. Unless you have Jesus, you cannot experience the enjoyment of life, for it is the gift of God. Only in Jesus, can we find real contentment and have the right perspective of what life is really all about. I pose the question again to you today, **"Are you truly enjoying life?"** If not, maybe you need to accept God's gift.



Merry Christmas



Across

3. Don't Forget
 8. Mary's Husband
 10. Lift Him up
 11. Not a Prince But A _____!
 15. Jolly
 17. Thanksgiving and Christmas are?
 19. Honor
 20. Infant
 21. Heavenly Messenger
 22. Next Month

Down

1. Northern Jewel
 2. King of Kings
 4. Barn Nursery
 5. Dec 25
 6. Gift Bringers
 7. Opposite of Sad
 9. Mary's Ride In to Bethlehem
 12. Name of the Angel

Down

13. Jesus Birth Place
 14. Rejoice
 16. Virgin Mother
 18. Your Church Home



A December to Remember...

True Light Baptist Drama Ministry Presents....

"A Victorious Christmas"

Sunday, December 4, 2011

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Services

True Light Baptist Church Puppet Ministry Presents...

"The True About Christmas"

Saturday, December 17, 2011

Senior Christmas Party

Golden Corral (Aurora, CO)

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

12:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11, 2011

4:00 p.m.

"A Night Out At The Christmas Café"

Friday, December 23, 2011

6:30 p.m.

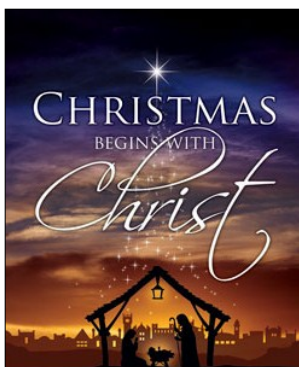
Christmas Day Service

One Service

Sunday, December 25, 2011

Office Closed

Monday, December 26, 2011– Friday, December 30, 2011



WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 31, 2011

10:00 p.m.

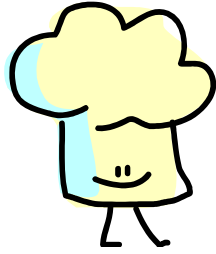
New Years Day

One Service

Sunday, January 1, 2011

10:00 a.m.





BONNE'S KITCHEN CORNER

Soft Gingerbread

Cookies



Ingredients

- 3/4 cup molasses
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup water
- 1/8 cup butter, softened
- 3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Directions

◆ In a medium bowl, mix together the molasses, brown sugar, water and butter until smooth. Combine the flour, baking soda, allspice, ginger, cloves and cinnamon, stir them into the wet mixture until all of the dry is absorbed. Cover the dough and chill for at least 3 hours.

◆ Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut out into desired shapes. Place cookies 1 inch apart onto ungreased cookie sheets.

◆ Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Remove from the cookie sheets to cool on wire racks.

Church Calendar Highlights



KEEP CONNECTED!

Active members of True Light who are sick, shut-in, elderly, or others who are physically unable to attend church may request a CD or DVD of the Pastor's sermons. Please contact a member of your Family Ministry Team or the office for further details.

December 2011



- Dec 4 (SUN) *Christmas Drama*
- Dec 11 (SUN) *Children's Program*
- Dec 14 (WED) *Senior's Holiday Party*
- Dec 17 (SAT) *Christmas Puppet Show*
- Dec 23 (FRI) *Christmas in the Café*
- Dec 25 (SUN) *Christmas Day Service*

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2012

After Hours Prayer Line

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV)

After Hours Prayer Line Phone Number

(303) 375-0754 Ext: 109

- ◆ Call for prayer and leave a recorded message. Our Intercessory Prayer Team regularly monitors this line.
- ◆ If you leave contact information, a member of the Intercessory Prayer Team will call and pray with you.
- ◆ Your Intercessory Prayer Team wants to pray with you and for you.



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