

CHURCH FOCUS

March 2025



Pastor's Message:

THE FOUNDATION OF OUR JOY PART 1

Not too long ago, I asked you a very important question—*Where can you find joy?* “Not in unbelief—Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: I wish I had never been born. Not in pleasure—Lord Byron lived a life of worldly pleasure if anyone did. He wrote: The worm, the canker, and grief are mine alone. Not in money—Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying, he said: I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth. Not in position and fame—Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both. He wrote: Youth is a mistake; manhood a struggle; old age a regret. Not in military glory—Alexander the Great conquered the known world in his day. Having done so, he wept in his tent, because he said, There are no more worlds to conquer. Where then is joy found?—the answer is simple, in Christ alone” (Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations).

I'd like to expand on that simple answer. True joy is found in Christ alone because of His prayer to the Father in John 17:13, “But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may

have **my joy** fulfilled in themselves.” This is the same “joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

One pastor puts it this way: “The ultimate source of Jesus' joy in doing his Father's will is seeing the Father's glory and being glorified with the Father. The perfect obedience of the Son is sustained by the joy that is set before Him (Heb. 12:2), and that joy was his return to the Father (see John 17:5). So when Jesus says in verse 13 that he wants his joy to be fulfilled in us, he means that he wants the joy he has in his Father to be in us so that we would enjoy the Father the way he does” (John Piper, “Joy and the Supremacy Postmodern World” in *The Supremacy of Christ in a Postmodern World* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007), 71).of Christ in a Postmodern World (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007), 71).

Another point of understanding, Jesus prays here that the way he now conveys

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This Month at RBC

2 Communion 10am

9 Leaders Meeting 5pm

15 Outreach 10am

22 Spring Cleaning
8am-12pm

30 Back-To-Back Services &
Potluck Lunch



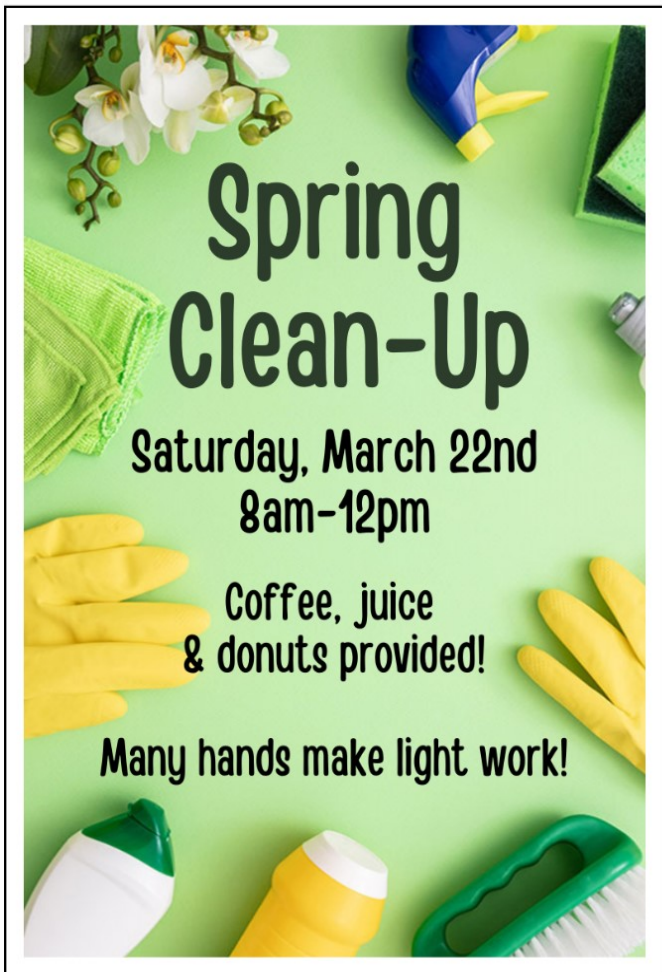
Spring Forward!

Daylight Saving Time begins March 9, 2025. Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour!



Women's Retreat

Ladies! Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the Ironwood Women's Retreat!



Spring Clean-Up

Saturday, March 22nd
8am-12pm

Coffee, juice
& donuts provided!

Many hands make light work!



JOIN US!

Back-To-Back Services & Potluck Lunch

SUNDAY MARCH 30TH
BEGINNING AT 10AM



Gospel Outreach

Join your church family Saturday, March 15th at 10am as we share the "Good News" with our community!



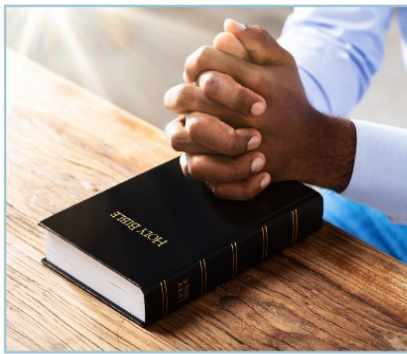
Women's Bible Study

Ladies, join us Sundays at 9am for Women's Bible Study under the direction of Brittany Torres.



Discipleship Class

Come grow in your faith! Under the direction of Jose Duran, the Discipleship Class meets every Sunday morning at 9am in the DC.



Men's Prayer

Come be a part of this very special time of prayer and fellowship every Tuesday and Friday at 4:30pm.

Regular Schedule

Sundays:

- Discipleship Class 9am
- Women's Bible Study 9am
- Morning Worship Service 10am
- Children's Discipleship (2nd & 4th Sunday)
- Choir Practice 4:30pm
- Evening Worship Service 6pm

Tuesdays & Fridays:

- Men's Prayer 4:30pm

Wednesdays:

- Adventure Club 6:30pm
- Youth Discipleship 7pm
- Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7pm

Thursdays:

- Men's Bible Study 7pm

Three Ways to Give



At Church



Online



By Mail

RIVERSIDE —BAPTIST CHURCH—

9015 Magnolia Avenue
 Riverside, California 92503
 (951) 687-6106
www.RBCSoCal.com
 Pastor: Christian Torres



CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP

2nd & 4th
Sundays

Ages 3-11

HOMEBUILDERS

Resting In Jesus

An old hymn declares:

*I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest.
Lay down, O weary one,
lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn and sad.
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.
(Horatius Bonar, 1846)*



Many people these days feel exhausted by division, the news, hatred that seems louder than love. More than ever, we who are “weary, worn, and sad” need to hear Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

Jesus wants to be our resting place — but not so we can hide forever from reality. Instead, he offers a place of refreshment where we can relax long enough to remember that not everything is bad; there is gospel to share. Not everything is hatred; God’s love is stronger.

Resting in Jesus, we focus on God’s goodness. We are reminded of love shown by kind people to those in trouble, bold voices speaking for justice, warm friendships that brighten our days. Gladdened by rest, we rise again. Jesus walks with us, as always. We can lean on him every step of the way.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Two-Way Benefits

“When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless,” observed Connecticut politician Pauline Keezer. “But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Indeed, it’s impossible to shine light in someone else’s life without lighting up your own.

We might think being generous toward another with our time or possessions leaves us with less. But as Jesus said, “He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 10:39, KJV). How common it is that when we minister to others in Christ’s name, we find we have also — or perhaps even more so — received ministry. This is the miracle of God’s love at work.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

(Continued from front page)

The Foundation Of Our Joy

this joy to us is through “these things I speak” (John 17:13). These are His teachings; these are His doctrines. Meaning; the joy of Jesus Christ, which He wants to convey to us, which He wants you and me to have are based on **his doctrinal teachings**.

The foundation of our joy, then, is the doctrinal teachings of Jesus alongside his historical experience. I want to get you to anchor your feet onto this solid foundation, so that your joy indeed is a solid joy. Listen, there is no other way to attain Christ-exalting joy but to trace back what Christ taught us by His words and deeply plant our feet in His teachings.

Solid doctrine #1—**He is God, I’m not!** This doctrine needs to be unshaken, unmoved; you cannot misconstrue this, you’ve got to maintain this—**He is God, I am not**. The moment I think I’m God, goodbye joy! I become worried sick! The moment I try to control things I don’t have control over—I become angry, manipulative. *Hey, let God be God! He’s the sovereign, you’re not!*

Solid doctrine #2—**God is a joyful God**. Within the Trinity, there is great joy already. Within the Trinity, there is perfect fellowship. Within the trinity, there is great love!

Solid doctrine #3—**God created us out of the fulness of His joy** in order to display the beauty of His manifold perfections. If you’ve been a Christian who has read your Bible more than once, you’ll start to say, *hmm, yeah, I know that. That sounds familiar. I’ve heard that before*. Paul’s language is replete with this doctrine—God’s purpose is to make known the riches of his glory (see Romans, Colossians, 2 Corinthians). In Ephesians 1:3-14, he waxes the most eloquent! Here’s a snippet of it. God did this. God did that “to the praise of his glory”!

There’s many more solid doctrines for *The Foundation of Our Joy*. Stay tuned.

With Sincere Love In Christ,

Christian Torres
Pastor-Teacher