

JCCC Admin

From: "Johns Creek Christian Church Admin" <jcccadmin@johnscreekchristian.org>
To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 12:01 PM
Subject: from Rev. Randy Barnhart April 23, 2009



Joy in Hard Times – May Sermon Series

TV preachers peddle it. Some sad folks actually buy it. In its

worse forms it claims, “Just give your heart to Jesus and everything will be smooth sailing from there on.” The only problem with teaching this is -- it’s just not true. Our problems don’t disappear when we follow Jesus. Christians and non-Christians have this in common: we all have hard times. Yet Scripture teaches that God’s design for us is *joyous living* – even when times are tough, maybe even especially when times are tough.

During the month of May, my sermons and our worship celebrations will explore the theme, “Joy in Hard Times.” There is no magic potion to create a joyful life, nor are there ‘five easy steps to joy’. What we do have to offer, however, is the unfailing presence of the Living Lord and a confidence that comes only from knowing Him.

Discover this month how you can have joy in hard times. Life is not ‘a bed of roses’ for very many people. Some of us have it harder than others, to be sure, but *everyone* struggles: economically, spiritually, physically and in many more ways. The Apostle Paul was no stranger to such struggles. After Paul became a Christian his life may have been punctuated by hardship and struggle – but it was characterized by joy! In this series of messages drawn from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians we will look at how you can experience contentment and ***joy in hard times***.

If you have friends and family struggling with hard times (and who doesn’t?), this is the teaching series they need to hear. Perhaps you have friends whose marriage is in jeopardy. Maybe you know someone who has a serious illness. Is there a neighbor or a former co-worker you know who is now unemployed? Do you know any single parents? Any kids at school who have alcoholic or abusive parents? Invite them to Johns Creek Christian Church to hear life-changing, practical messages from God’s Word.

Pax Christi,

Randy