

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon notes for February 24-25, 2001

The Epistle of Joy

Dale Whitehead

Happiness is an attitude of satisfaction or delight based on some present circumstance.

Joy is a deep down confidence that all is well no matter what the circumstances might be.

Biblical joy is a gift from God (Psalm 4:7-8; Psalm 16:11).

"... to all those who believe (John 15:11).

"... produced in them by the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

"... as they receive and obey God's Word (Jeremiah 15:16; 1 John 1:4).

Which will thrive in the midst of trials (1 Thessalonians 1:6; James 1:2; 1 Peter 1:6)?

"... while focusing on future glory (Romans 12:12; 1 Peter 4:13).

The Servants

The first bondservant mentioned by name in this verse is Paul.

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The second bondservant mentioned is Timothy.

The word bondservant or slave (*doulos*) conveys ownership, possession and subjection.

Paul and Timothy's enslavement to Christ was willing.

Those who willingly become the bondservants of Christ are bondservants of Christ alone (Matthew 6:24).