



### Today's Sermons

Morning: The Hands of Jesus  
Evening: Sampson, The Strong Judge

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	45
Sunday AM Worship	62
Sunday PM Worship	32
Wed. Bible Study	36
Offering	\$1809

## The Scriptural Plan of Salvation

- The world presents many plans . . . the Bible only one!
- It is better to accept the plan of God rather than the plans of men!
- God's Word will judge us (John 12:48) . . . and God's plan is a part of that judgment!

- ❑ A person must **HEAR** the Gospel  
*"And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? . . . So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:14, 17*
- ❑ A person must **OBEY** the Gospel  
*"He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Hebrews 5:9*
- ❑ A person must **BELIEVE** the Gospel  
*"But without faith it is impossible to please him" Hebrews 11:6*
- ❑ A person must **REPENT** of their sins  
*"But now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." Acts 17:30*
- ❑ A person must **CONFESS** Christ  
*"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10*
- ❑ A person must be **BAPTIZED** into Christ  
*"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16*

Barnes' Bible Charts



A Weekly Publication of the  
**West Jefferson Church of Christ**  
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Volume XII                      September 1, 2019                      Number 35

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**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
Bible Study:.... 10:00am  
AM Worship:..11:00am  
PM Worship:....6:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday  
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program  
Sunday:.....7:30am  
"Back to the Bible"  
AM 580 WSKS  
93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
Warm & Cordial  
Welcome  
To All Our  
Visitors!**

**Context, Context!**  
Andy Robison

One of the best things that ever happened for Bible study is the division of the text into chapters and verses. It makes certain passages easier to find and reference. Yet, one of the worst things that ever happened for Bible study is the division of the text into chapters and verses. In the citation of verses of a couple of phrases, students and teachers often forget the context and, even unwittingly, make the verse mean something never intended by the author.

One example of this is a verse making the rounds on plaques and memes lately. Jeremiah 29:11 reads, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

The modern, feel-good context in which the verse seems to make its appearance is an implication that God would not allow any harm, that people who trust in him would get their way, and that life would just be grand. Or, maybe that is just me reading too much into the statements. Perhaps people mean that there can be a future and a hope even if they have to go through some tough trials. The latter is closer to the biblical context.

*Continued Inside*

The statement comes in this historical situation. Jeremiah was prophesying in Jerusalem about the wickedness of the people there bringing God's judgment upon them. That judgment would come via Babylonian armies who would overrun them. Some had already been taken captive. Jeremiah 29 is the record of a letter Jeremiah wrote to the captives. There had been many false prophets who made the people feel good, saying no harm would come (Jeremiah 6:14). One was Hananiah, who promised the captives they would return within two years (Jeremiah 28). Jeremiah's letter said quite the opposite.

Jeremiah penned his letter to say that the people would be captive seventy years! They should build houses, plant gardens and stay put. The promise of a future and a hope was to be later and only after those seventy years of trial were completed. Jeremiah 29:10 gives the immediate context. "For thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform my good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place." Then, came the promise of a future and a hope.

In it, God spoke of a time when the people of Judah would indeed call upon Him again, and He would indeed answer (29:12). Previously in this time frame, the people had rejected God's pleas toward them so much that He indicated He would not listen (Ezekiel 20:1-3; 7:26; 14:3). Ezekiel prophesied to the ones in captivity, while Jeremiah largely prophesied in Jerusalem. The time would come when God would listen again—after they had been punished and when a new generation came along with a heart given to obedience.

In this future and hope, the descendants of the captives would be brought back from captivity (Jeremiah 29:13-14). This portion of Jeremiah's letter is exceedingly comforting.

The trouble was that many of the generation reading the letter would not be alive to realize that hope. One could reckon the seventy years from the first captivity in about 605 B.C. This letter in Jeremiah would be timed roughly 597 B.C., when King Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) and those with him were taken captive (Jeremiah 29:2). The edict of Cyrus came in 539 B.C., in which the Persian ruler sent the captives home (Ezra 1:2-4). There would be roughly six decades left for the captives. A 21-year-old reading the letter would be 80. A 40-year-old would hardly be expected to be around for the promised "future and hope."

Still, they were to take comfort in that hope. Some of them would. They perhaps were not as individualistic in their focus as the last couple of American generations. They may have come to the realization that they would have to do some suffering, but things could be better for their children. Their "future and hope," therefore, was not a personal repudiation of any potential discomfort. Their future and hope was for their people, their kin, their descendants. Read the rest of Jeremiah 29; it is bad news.

Sometimes, trials have to come for hope to arrive (1 Peter 1:7-9; Romans 5:3-5). Sometimes, God's eternally-viewed timing does not coincide with even a faithful person's preferences. Nevertheless, the message of Jeremiah 29:11 always rings true; eventually there is hope. In the Christian era, one looks for the eternal inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4). Even if physical life is soured and unjust, there can be reward in the future. The persecuted saints of another prophetic book knew so (Revelation 6:9-11; 14:3

## Rejoice In The Lord

Guy Orbison, Jr.

A favorite refrain, repeated in every chapter of Paul's epistle to the Philippians is to "rejoice" (cf. 1:18; 2:17,18,28; 3:1; 4:4,10). So important was this message to the church, Paul repeated himself in the last chapter: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (4:4).

It is because of our connection to the Lord that we may "rejoice always." This means that no matter what circumstances we encounter in life, our joy is never diminished. Paul wrote all these words from a prison cell. Yet, he was not discouraged or depressed by his present situation in life. He had given himself to the Lord and in the Lord he could always "rejoice."

The term "rejoice" is in the Greek imperative which denotes a command. Can you imagine that? Here, the apostle is demanding that we have joy. Since this rejoicing is a matter of the heart, it is not difficult to fulfill. It is a decision we make within the inner man to face the troubles of life with a positive resolve. As Christians, we will never allow anything of this realm to defeat us.

Although the Christian walk may be difficult at times, the Christian spirit is never gloomy. That's because we know what we have "in the Lord." The world in general will never see what we see through our relationship with Christ, therefore it will always be opposed to what we believe and practice. The opposition of the world, however, cannot dissuade our enthusiasm for life and our jubilation of the future. In Christ, we know who we are and what is laid up for us on the last day. Yeah... that'll get you rejoicing!

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*"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!  
For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his  
counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be  
recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to  
him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen" (Rom. 11:33-36).*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 1 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Sept 8 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Sept 29 – Song Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell