

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Praise to the Lord"

By Lyn Linde, First United Methodist Church, Norton

How To Delight in Praise to the Lord!

Consider these words from Psalm 147:10-11

He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse or in human might.

No, the LORD's delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unending love.

Psalm 147 begins with a reminder of how delightful it is for us to praise the Lord. Then, after celebrating God's saving grace and awesome power, this psalm speaks of how we might give delight to God.

The Lord is not pleased by demonstrations of human strength. Indeed, all human might is weak compared with the unlimited strength of God. By implication, we cannot impress God with our efforts and accomplishments. We can, however, give delight to the Lord by fearing him and putting our hope in his unending love. We fear God when we bow before his awesome power and holiness, when we are astounded by his greatness. We hope in God's unending love when we count on his faithfulness and mercy.

Most of us would easily accept the fact that we can take pleasure in God. Yet it is surprising, perhaps even shocking, to think that God can take pleasure in us. Even as parents

delight in their children, so our Heavenly Father delights in us. When we trust him fully, when we revere his greatness, when we place our confidence in his love, God is pleased.

Do you really believe that you can give joy to the Creator of the universe? I believe the Lord awaits conversations with us through prayer and in singing praises to His Name. Too many times we neglect personal time with the Lord because we are too busy and time got away from us. Personally I have prayed and asked the Lord to wake me up early so that I may have time with Him. Be careful

what you pray for because I wake without an alarm about 6:30 am and cannot fall back asleep. It is then that I go to my rocking chair with Bible in hand and say, "Lord what would you like my heart to see today?" If you were to believe this, what difference might it make in the way you live today? For me the difference is a brand new day lifted up into His presence knowing that I journey hand in hand in delightful pleasure with my Savior. I have discovered when I neglect this personal time with God, my whole day is unorganized because I have not given the day over to His keeping and guidance.

Invitation to Pray: O Lord, it is indeed good to praise you. It is delightful and fitting to honor you with my words and deeds. How amazing that I can give delight to you. It astounds me that I matter that much to you, yet this is the clear testimony of your Word. Help me, dear Lord, to live in such a way that you are pleased. May I be filled with humble awe before you. May I put my hope in your love at all times, even and especially when life is hard. By your Spirit, may I live today with an abiding sense of your presence, seeking to give delight to you in all that I do. Amen.

True Reflection

Have you ever caught your reflection as you passed a mirror, trying to see yourself as others see you? Some people's faces seem to always demonstrate a jovial or serene attitude, even in the worst of times. How we react to worry or tragedy is the true reflection of God in our life. God's love is perpetuated in our smiles and our eyes as we live His love and faith. Worship regularly and pray often. The Bible tells us we are made in our Creator's image; may we always be His true reflection.



Photo Credit: ©istockphoto.Antagain

Weekly Scripture Reading

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Genesis 33:1-20 | Genesis 35:1-21 | Genesis 37:1-36 | Genesis 39:1-23 | Genesis 40:1-23 | Genesis 41:1-36 | Genesis 41:37-57 |
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Bluegrass & Old Tyme Music Festival
July 27-28, Milford Lake State Park Bluegrass music furnished at beautiful Milford Lake. Camping available. Family style festival. Featuring bands from KS & MO. milfordlakebluegrassfestival.com

National Baseball Congress World Series
July 28-August 11, Wichita 78th Annual. The nation's top amateur baseball teams compete in a 2-week tournament with Baseball 'Round the Clock, Aug. 4-5. (316) 264-6837, nbcbaseball.com

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Dodge City Days Festival
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Dodge City Roundup Rodeo
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BlackTop Nationals
August 24-26, Wichita One of the largest car, truck and motorcycle events in the country. Includes car and bike show, autocross and cruise night. (316) 425-6767, blacktopnationals.com

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