

Want To Be A Christian Only?

- **HEAR THE WORD - ROM 10:17**
- **BELIEVE IN CHRIST - JN 8:24; ROM 10:9**
- **REPENT OF YOUR SINS - ACTS 2:38; 3:19**
- **CONFESS CHRIST - ROM 10:9-10; ACTS 8:37**
- **REMOVE YOUR SINS IN WATER BAPTISM – MK 16:16; ACTS 22:16; ROM 6:6; I PET 3:21**

News and Comments:

- **New Book**, “The Sin of Drinking,” is now available
- **New Book**, “Why Do We,” is now available
- Interested in the books go to www.lulu.com/drishell

Useful Tips:

- **NEW** Internet Radio Station – www.live365.com/stations/drishell
- Our Web-Site – www.thehillcrestchurchofchrist.org
- Free e-mail based Bible Correspondence Course on-line
- Friends? Mail a copy or sign them up for the e-mail version

Service Times:

Sunday Morning Bible Study: 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship Services: 10:30 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00 PM

Meet With Us:

The Hillcrest church of Christ
40 Johnson Lane
Waynesburg, PA 15370

The Workman Bulletin

II Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



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Rejoice In The Face Of Adversity

Can there be happiness in adversity? According to Philippians 4:4 there can. Paul, when writing the Philippians, was in a **jail cell** yet he wrote, “rejoice always.” Despite his adversity, in other words, he could rejoice and encourage others to do so as well. This can be done in any situation if one will only serve God through Christ. Indeed, when one is a Christian he has much to rejoice about, but his happiness comes from God the Father through Christ. When a Christian reflects upon his life - whether past, present, or future - he is able to rejoice! His past reflects his salvation from sin; his present reflects a saved condition with numerous blessings in service to a loving God; and his future reflects hope of an eternal life.

Back in December my family and I were struck with tragedy when our home caught fire. (In case anyone is wondering why January’s Bulletin was late.) It was this tragedy that led me to ponder rejoicing in adversity. Despite this difficulty we realized that the scriptures teach us, my family, that by focusing on the blessings of God instead of our negative circumstances, we could greatly rejoice. Many, however, do not allow themselves to rejoice in the face of adversity. Instead they are complaint filled and depressed. With this in mind let’s consider how the Bible shows we can suffer with dignity and joy.

Acts 5:41:

As the church was in its infancy Christ’s apostles went about teaching that Jesus, a man from Nazareth, was the Christ the Son of God Almighty. Many of the Jews considered such teaching as blasphemous. Despite the dangers Christ’s apostles persisted with their teaching. Eventually the apostles were arrested and hauled before the Sanhedrin Council, a Jewish court. (Acts 5:25-28) It was a very real possibility the apostles would be put to death for their teachings. (cp Acts 5:33) They were not killed on this occasion, however, but they did suffer adversity. (Acts 5:40) What was their reaction to this adversity? Did they rejoice or despair? The inspired record states, “And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.” (Acts 5:41)

I Peter 3:14:

Peter in his first epistle speaks frequently of suffering adversity. He was clearly speaking from experience when he wrote, “But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, **happy are ye**: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled.” Perhaps Peter was alluding to what the Savior had taught in Matthew 5:10; “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’

sake.” Whatever the case the point is that our happiness and joy are not in the adversity itself, but that adversity should be regarded as a blessed condition. Christians have really no reason to be alarmed in view of anything that might happen to them. God is our protector, and He is abundantly able to see us through our trials. (cp II Timothy 1:8-12)

In II Corinthians 1:1-12 Paul describes the suffering he and his companions endured. In doing so he reminds that God “comforteth us in all our tribulation” when we “not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.” (II Corinthians 1:4, 9) Also, the Christian must train himself to “rejoice always” because obedience to God demands it. Peter states, “For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. (I Peter 2:20)

Rejoice Always:

James equally writes of suffering adversity and notes that true believers who obey all of the will of God in adversity are rewarded. James writes, “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Notice that James antiques enduring adversity as love for the Lord - a love worthy of reward.

Let us be encouraged that despite adversity we are blessed above measure and in the face of any adversity we can and should rejoice!