

Fullness of Joy

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[0:00] Well, please take your Bibles and open them up this morning to the book of Psalms. The book of Psalms. And our passage this morning is just one verse, mercifully short for you this morning.

Psalm 16:11. But don't get any ideas. I promise a full-length sermon for you. We will walk through the entire Psalm, but focus in on Psalm 16, verse 11.

And so when you found that, let's stand in honor of the reading of God's Word this morning. Psalm 16, verse 11. David writes, You make known to me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy. At your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Let's pray. Father, we thank you, God, that this verse is true.

Lord, we thank you that there is endless joy and endless pleasure to be had in your presence. And so we pray now, as we've already asked God, that you would move our hearts to seek it in you.

[1:06] And we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen. You may be seated. We're here in the month of January.

We spend a little bit of time focusing in on our mission and our vision as a church. Who are we? What do we exist for? What are we up to here at Seawee Bay? Our mission as a church, we exist to magnify the glory of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Treg showed us this mission last week from Revelation chapter 5, this grand gospel plan. God's mission, we believe, in all of human history, God's mission is God's glory.

And so because this is God's mission, this is also our mission. Our mission as a church is to magnify the glory of God. Our mission is God's glory.

But that raises an important question, and it's a question that every church has to answer and every individual Christian has to answer. It's a question that really ought to shape the way that we live and the way that we approach our plans and our hopes for the coming year.

[2:17] And that question is how? And so for the next three weeks, we're going to answer that question. How do we as a church plan to magnify the glory of God?

What are we going to do? What's on the agenda for Seawee Bay in 2026? And we could answer that question in a lot of ways, couldn't we? I think it's a temptation for all of us, even especially me in leadership, the pastors here, to start off a new year thinking and dreaming of all the big things that we might want to do for God this year.

All the good things even, right? We want to give generously this year. We want to support the church in Ghana this year with our partner, Yvonne, over there in Navrongo.

We want to share the gospel with our friends and our family members this year. We want to read our Bible all the way through this year. We want to, you fill in the blank with whatever that might be for you.

But we need to back up because there is one foundational answer that all of us have to give first.

Here it is. Before we go and do anything else, this is primary, we must seek to enjoy God this year.

[3:37] We exist to magnify the glory of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ. How? Answer number one, by enjoying Him.

So here's my argument this morning, and I think that we'll see it all through Psalm 16 here. Delight in God is key to glorifying God. Delight in God is key to truly honoring God.

In other words, to truly honor Him, you must truly enjoy Him. And if joy is absent, then do all the good things you want, but at the end of the day, it's ultimately empty and meaningless unless enjoyment of God is right at the center.

So let's see it in our psalm this morning. I want to ask the question this morning, why enjoy? Of all the things that we could say, of all the things that we could emphasize as a church, why do we say that we want to enjoy God?

Why do we want to make that such a big deal? Why is this one of our three answers for how we magnify the glory of God? Why should you, individual Christian, why should you pursue joy in the Lord this year?

[4:53] I'm glad you asked. I have seven answers. Seven reasons why, here from Psalm 16. Seven reasons why, and then we'll get practical, and we'll ask how.

How? So first, seven reasons why we pursue joy in the Lord. First, enjoy Him because we were created to enjoy Him.

Reason number one, enjoy Him because we were created to enjoy Him. Jonathan Edwards preached a sermon in 1728 called Safety, Fullness, and Sweet Refreshment in Christ.

You know, sermon titles were better back then. And he opened up by asking the question, what is it that the soul of every man naturally and necessarily craves?

And he answers his own question, and he says, the soul of every man necessarily craves happiness. This is universal.

[5:59] All of us crave happiness. And so then the answer becomes, well, where do we find it? Where do we seek it? Where do we look to be truly satisfied and happy?

David, here in Psalm 16, he seems to have found the answer, doesn't he? Look there to verse 2. He says, I say to you, Lord, you are my Lord.

I have no good apart from you. In other words, he believes that God is His greatest and His highest good. He delights in Him. And so he says again, verse 11, in your presence, God, is fullness of joy. Now your right hand are pleasures forevermore. This whole psalm from beginning to end is just bursting at the seams with this theme, this expression of joy in the Lord, isn't it?

David truly believes that God is the source of all true, full, endless, perfect joy.

[7:02] This is the joy that we crave. Why? Because we were created for it. And when we enjoy God as we were created to do, guess what happens?

When we enjoy Him as we were made to enjoy Him, we then glorify Him as we were made to glorify Him. The Westminster Shorter Catechism, it asks the question, what is the chief end of man?

Anybody know the answer? Man's chief end is, help me out. Yeah, y'all are good. Y'all nailed it.

Man's chief end, his ultimate purpose, his reason for existing is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

You see, these two things are bound up together. God's glory and our joy. John Piper famously puts his own spin on that answer to say that man's chief end is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. In other words, as he says, God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. As you delight in Him more and more and more, as you taste fullness of joy in His presence more and more and more, you are aligning with your God-given purpose, your reason for existing, and you bring God more and more and more glory.

[8:31] So, reason number one why we make such a big deal out of this, you were made for it. And the chief end of your life, the chief end of this church, is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

Second reason. Enjoy Him because this is how you bulletproof your faith. This is how you bulletproof your faith.

You all know what I mean by bulletproofing. There's a lot of talk in the world of fitness about bulletproofing your knees. And when I hear that, my ears perk up because I got bad knees.

Or bulletproofing your shoulders, right? Those are areas that are prone to injury, dick. Amen? And so there are whole fitness regiments that are built around protecting those sensitive areas of your body and building up the muscle groups so that when the tension comes, when the issue comes, when stress is applied to that part of your body, you are ready for it.

Or think about it like this. I know that some of y'all are doomsday preppers, right? Be honest. Front row. I'm looking right here. I know who I'm talking to. Your bunker is ready.

[9:45] The food supply is set. Guns and ammo are loaded up, ready to go. The generator is fueled up and ready to go. You are ready in the event of

danger, aren't you?

We need to ask ourselves if we prepare our soul in the very same way. Are you prepared for when the trial comes your way?

When, not if. Look there to verse 1. The trial has come to David. We don't know exactly what this trial is, but if you were to just throw a dart at any of the Psalms and you just said, I think the Psalm is about David being in trouble, you would probably be right.

He cries out to the Lord in verse 1, preserve me, O God. Help me. Save me. Keep me alive. Why can he call out like this?

Preserve me, for in you I take refuge. Preserve me, for you are my God. Preserve me, for you are my only good.

[10:53] Do you see the order here? He delights in God, and this delight in God anchors his faith when the trouble comes. And this is what he says in verse 8.

Look there. He says, I've set the Lord always before me because he is at my right hand. I shall not be shaken. How do you bulletproof your faith?

For when the trials come, friend, you pursue delight in the Lord right now. I'll give you one more example from our own church. On Christmas Eve, I talked with the Kennys, and they shared with me about how hard it is for them around Christmas to be separated from their son.

And here's what Scott said to me. He said, yes, it is hard, but when I focus on what I do have and pursue joy in Him, who I do have and make Him the focus of my heart rather than what I'm missing, then I'm okay.

And I thought, man, that's it, isn't it? That's the type of bulletproof faith I want all of us to have.

Number three, third reason to pursue joy in the Lord.

[12:06] Enjoy Him because that is how we love others. Look there to verse 3. David moves straight from this vertical delight in God, Him and God vertically, individually, to horizontal delight in God's people.

Look at what he says, verse 3. He says, as for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones. He's praising them in whom is all my delight. And you read that and it almost seems contradictory, doesn't it?

He was just saying, all of His good is in God. All His delight is in God. I thought that all your delight was in the Lord, David. But now, He says, all His delight is in God's people.

The truth is, that's not contradictory at all. That's exactly how it ought to be. There is an unbreakable connection between enjoying God and enjoying God's people.

When you love God and enjoy God, you begin to love what God loves and enjoy what God enjoys.

[13:17] And there is no doubt, is there? God loves and enjoys His people. God, from eternity past, planned for His people to be with Him for all of eternity.

Let me tell you something. You don't want to spend all eternity with someone you don't enjoy. Jesus came, died for His church.

She is the bride of Christ. She is His own body. Jesus delights in the church. He loves His people.

Do we love the church like Christ loves the church?

Do you love and enjoy what God loves and enjoys? It's become somewhat popular to say something like, I love Jesus, but I'm not so sure about His people.

Have you heard that? I'm good with Jesus, but it's His followers that I don't want anything to do with. Or even, I'm okay with my individual walk with Jesus.

[14:20] I don't need anybody else to be a part of that. And to be honest, sometimes I get that, okay? I understand the sentiment. But the Bible really doesn't give us that option, does it?

Love for God necessarily overflows into love for God's people. Delight in God necessarily overflows into delight in God's people.

So much so that John tells us one of the primary ways the world knows that we belong to Him is our love for one another. If we have trouble with this, if we view the church just as an optional add-on to your walk with Christ, something you just got to put up with, if you need to grow in your love for one another, how do you do it?

It starts with growing in your delight in Him. And then out of that, you love what He loves. Fourth. Fourth reason. Enjoy Him because counterfeits are constantly competing with Him.

Enjoy Him because counterfeits are constantly competing with Him for our heart's affections. We were created for joy. Remember that?

[15:37] Point number one. We were made for joy. We're hardwired to seek happiness. So we will seek it and we will find some form of it either in God or in a counterfeit.

Think of it like this. You seek food. You probably woke up this morning seeking food. Your body needs a certain amount of calories in order for it to keep going.

But the difference for your body between 500 calories of chicken and rice and veggies and 500 calories of a big bowl of chocolate ice cream is night and day different, isn't it?

And if you make an entire diet out of ice cream, it might taste good for a little bit, but that type of diet, eventually, hopefully this is no surprise to you, eventually that type of diet will kill you.

See, the devil, our enemy, wants you to fill up on spiritual junk food. In our culture, every single day, all the time, every hour, every minute, it offers it to us every single day.

[16:55] It just lures us and entices us to come and fill up on junk that looks good, looks appealing, tastes good for a minute, but truly does not ultimately satisfy.

And when you snack on that, you have no appetite for what's truly nourishing and satisfying for your soul. David sees this issue and he calls our attention to it here in verse 4.

He says, the sorrows of those who run after another God shall multiply. Do you see two paths here? one path ends in multiplication of sorrows and the other ends in fullness of joy.

One promises satisfaction but never delivers. The other promises satisfaction and gives it in full.

One is spiritual junk food, the other is a feast of spiritual joy.

David sees these two categories of people and he makes it clear he is not one of those who run after false gods. He won't even speak of them. He says, their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

[18:10] He understands false gods threaten real joy. John Calvin says it like this about those who run after false gods.

He says, ultimately they leave them unsatisfied, famished, and disappointed. They may intoxicate and glut themselves with pleasures to the greatest excess but instead of being satisfied they rather become wearied of them through loathing and besides the pleasures of this world vanish away like dreams.

Have you ever experienced this? I know I have. He goes on and says the true and solid joy in which the minds of men may rest will never be found anywhere else but in God and therefore none but the faithful who are contented with his grace alone can be truly and perfectly happy.

Do you want to be happy? Of course you do. Don't let counterfeits steal away your joy. Seek to delight the Lord in his presence.

There is fullness joy. But also fifth quickly here fifth reason enjoy him because that's how we rightly enjoy his gifts. Enjoy him because that is how we rightly enjoy his gifts.

[19:36] I just want to quickly address this because I do want to be clear that many of the things that we try to find ultimate satisfaction in are not necessarily bad things in and of themselves are they?

What is an idol? What is an idol? Idols are usually good things that we elevate to be God things.

Family is a wonderful gift. Food is a wonderful gift. Money is a wonderful gift. Provision of our needs is a wonderful gift.

But only when we first delight in him are we able to rightly enjoy all of his good gifts. It puts it all into perspective here.

Delight in God brings contentment with all of God's gifts whether it's in much or in little. Look there to verse five. David says the Lord is my chosen portion and my cup.

[20:35] You hold my lot. In other words everything I have comes from you. You're the giver of every good gift. But at the end of the day David says you are the gift.

You are my portion. And whatever else you give to me that's just icing on the cake. Remember David is in trouble here near the point of death and he's saying this. He says in verse six the lines

have fallen for me in pleasant places.

He's almost dead. Indeed! I have a beautiful inheritance. Ask yourself with all of your! thoughts! some goals for the new year!

All of your ambition! Ask yourself are you satisfied with what you have? It's not wrong to desire things, bigger house, better job, a raise, better health, that is all fine.

But is your heart content to know that in him you have a beautiful inheritance? Can you say with David that the lines have fallen for you in pleasant places, that you've given me above and beyond what I need because my joy is in you.

[21:48] And not just for a moment. For in the good news of the gospel is that all who enjoy him now truly, you get to enjoy him in fullness of joy for the rest of eternity.

This is reason number six. Reason number six. Enjoy him because those who do will do so for the rest of eternity.

Now that's shocking, isn't it? Because where else can you find this? For everything else, the grave is the end of your joy.

If your joy is ultimately in money or in relationships, in any sort of worldly gain, worldly pleasure, it will be in the span of eternity, short lived, death will be the end of it for you.

But if your joy is in the Lord, David says he believes that that joy continues even beyond the grave. Look there to verse nine. David says, therefore my heart is glad and my whole being rejoices.

[22:57] My flesh also dwells secure for you will not abandon my soul to Sheol or let your holy one see corruption. How can he say this?

Because David, he doesn't know he might actually die because of this trial, whatever it is. He doesn't know how this is going to turn out for him, but he believes and he rejoices with his whole being because he believes that even the grave won't steal his joy.

He believes that his delight in God will last even beyond the grave. It's the only eternal joy there is. If you want eternal joy, it must be attached to an eternal good.

David knows this and he believes that his joy in his eternal God will last into eternity. What he didn't know most likely was that he was speaking prophetically not just about him and his security, but ultimately about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

This is what Peter says in Acts chapter 2. He stands up and he quotes this psalm, Psalm 16, and he says in Acts chapter 2 verse 25, he says David wrote all of this, he said all of this ultimately about Jesus.

[24:25] He says brothers I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried. His tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of Christ that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.

This Jesus God raised up and of that we are all witnesses. This psalm, like all the psalms, are ultimately fulfilled, they're ultimately about Christ.

Christ Jesus of all people knew what it was to live a life enjoying God. Christ Jesus of all people lived a life of fullness of joy.

He lived a life of joy in God that overflowed in love for people. He lived a life of joy in God that overflowed in obedience to the Lord. A life of joy in God that overflowed into worship.

Jesus of all people truly delighted in God. And so when he went to the grave for us and like David cried out to the Lord, what happened?

[25:50] God did not abandon his soul to the grave or let his holy one see corruption. Jesus, the one who truly delighted in God, triumphed over the grave so that now all who come to him in faith, all who delight in him, share his victory over the grave.

Now all who come to him in faith will enjoy fullness of joy in his presence for the rest of eternity. So, number seven, here's our summary verse.

Enjoy him because in him alone can we find real lasting joy. Verse 11, in your presence there is fullness of joy.

At your right hand are pleasures forever more. Church, do you believe this? do you live as if it were really true?

That you have access to fullness of joy in God through Christ? Is our church marked by joy?

[27:08] Jonathan Edwards preached another sermon, he did that a lot, called The Christian Pilgrim. And he says this, he says, God is the highest good of the reasonable creature.

And the enjoyment of him is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven fully to enjoy God is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, the company of earthly friends are but shadows. But the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams, but God is the sun.

These are but streams, but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean.

Therefore, it becomes us to spend this life only as a journey towards heaven, as it becomes us to make the seeking of our highest end and proper good the work of our lives, to which we should subordinate all other concerns of life.

Does this add up with your own heart this morning? Does it line up with your goals for the year? Does it line up with your expectations for what you think this church ought to be and ought to do?

[28:33] Friend, I believe with all my heart that there is nothing more important for us to do than to delight ourselves in him. So that is why. Now, let's finish by asking how.

I want to just get practical here. How do we enjoy him? And we'll start individually and then we'll move out from there. First of all, if you are not a Christian, if you're hearing this for the first time, if you've been putting this off, listen, your new life starts right here.

Not with you doing something for God, but with you delighting in God. before you pass go and think about what you must do and all the things that you can go do for God.

Here is your call right here at the start of the year to look to the cross of Christ and see God as infinitely satisfying for your soul.

Here's the call, friend, to turn from counterfeit gods that offer satisfaction but never deliver, put your faith in Christ.

[29:45] In his presence there is fullness of joy. At his right hand are pleasures forevermore. Come to Christ and say with David, you are my Lord, you are my only good.

And then, and only then, let's ask together, how do we pursue enjoyment of God as an individual Christian? And the answer, it really is simple.

it's not flashy, it's not complicated. God has given what we call the ordinary means of grace to this very end.

Primarily, a regular steady diet of the word of God and a regular constant conversation with him in prayer.

these are the means God has given us to know him and enjoy him and glorify him forever. Share another story with you.

[30:47] George Mueller, I know I've talked about him before. He ran an orphanage for over 10,000 children throughout his lifetime. He wrote in his journal about an important discovery he made one day in 1854, and here's what he said.

He said, the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day is to have my soul happy in the Lord.

The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might go serve the Lord, how much I might glorify the Lord, but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished, for I might seek to set the truth before the unconverted, I might seek to benefit believers, I might seek to relieve the distressed, I might in other ways seek to behave myself as it becomes the child of God in this world, and yet not being happy in the Lord, and not being nourished and strengthened in my inner man day by day, all this might not be attended to in the right spirit.

Do you hear the priority here? Get my soul happy in the Lord. He ended that note saying how different when the soul is refreshed and made happy early in the morning from what it is when

without spiritual preparation, the service, the trials, the temptations of the day come upon me. A first order, first thing, get my soul happy in the Lord. How did he do it? His practice was to get up early and read and meditate on the word of God, and then to let that turn into spill over into prayer, and then off to the rest of his day.

[32:46] Now, you can figure out the best rhythm for you, okay? I know everybody's schedule's different. Some of you all wake up at the crack of dawn, get in the car, go to work. Moms, young moms, some of you have obligations, responsibilities tugging at you almost constantly every moment.

The rhythm, you figure that out for yourself, okay? But here's my suggestion. Make a plan to get your soul satisfied in God every single day.

How? By coming to the word of God, and then by responding to him in prayer. Do you have a plan for this? When will you read the word this year?

And why not take the afternoon this afternoon and make a plan for the rest of the week if you haven't done so already? When will I meet with God to get my soul happy in him? Go ahead and make a plan for the month.

That's okay. Plan out for the whole year. If you miss a day or two, that's okay. When will you read? When will you spend time with the Lord? When will you feed your inner man? Plan for prayer.

[33:58] Make an appointment with God and don't blow him off. Set time aside with him for the purpose of enjoying him. But it's not just individuals, is it?

Broaden that circle out. And your families, do you have a plan for your family and for how you will delight in him together? Husbands, how will you enjoy him with your wife this year?

Moms and dads, parents, how will you lead your children to enjoy him together as a family this year? Grandparents, with the opportunities that you have, how will you sow seeds in your grandchildren to raise them up in the Lord?

The means are the same. It's the word and prayer. The word and prayer. But now it's not just you in your closet by yourself. Now it's with your family. How will you make this a part of your life together? Will you open up God's word over a meal? Or before breakfast will you pick some key verses, key chapters, key passages to memorize together? Will you linger just a little bit longer in prayer at bedtime?

[35:04] How will you seek to enjoy him as a family? Mom and Dad, if you want to shape the future of the church, if you want to shape the future of the nation, if you want to shape the future of the world, make disciples of your children, spend time enjoying God together as a family, would you prioritize this this year, but not just in your families?

Lastly here, let's think together corporately as a church, because again, this pursuit of joy in him is our mission together.

How do you plan to enjoy him together as a church this year? And for one thing, if you're not a member of a church, I just want to encourage you, find a healthy, gospel-preaching local church where you will be led week in and week out to delight in God.

I would highly recommend this one, but it doesn't have to be this one. And if not, then please find another gospel-preaching, healthy church, rightly-ordered church, and join yourself to it, not just as a formality, but as a mutual encouragement to know and enjoy the Lord.

Don't treat church just as like an a la carte menu, where you have like ten different Bible studies and you like the music here and the youth here and the preaching here and you just make your own path.

[36:41] No, link arms with a body. Join together. Enjoy Him together. Pursue joy in the Lord together.

Come to worship weekly for the purpose of enjoying God together. Come ready to sing to the Lord and to one another, not mindlessly, but singing from the heart, songs that teach us about the Lord and encourage us on our way.

Come ready to hear the word preached. Would you pray over this hour and expect the Lord to meet you? Read the word before you come, till the soil of your heart.

Prepare yourself to come and enjoy Him through the word. Come expecting to meet with the Lord and to hear from Him. Come ready to serve one another. Come eager to show your delight in each other with word and with deed.

Come ready to give, plan for it. Come ready to share a word of encouragement. Come ready to love one another. Come expecting your soul to be nourished.

[37:43] Come looking to delight in God. This is what the church is for. It's a simple approach to church. I get it. It's not complicated.

It's not flashy. The production value of this is zero. But it's the reason we exist. We are a people who have been given true and lasting joy.

We have been rescued by the grace of God from the multiplying sorrows of false gods. And we have been shown the path of life in Christ.

We have been shown the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. We've had our hearts changed to know that there is fullness of joy to be had in the presence of God.

The joy that we crave day in and day out because we were created for it. Church, we exist to magnify the glory of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

[38:46] How? By enjoying Him together. Make this your chief end this year, church. Our chief end, see we may, our chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

Why? Because in His presence there is fullness of joy. At His right hand our pleasures forevermore. Let's pray. Father, we praise You that this is gloriously true, that there is infinite joy to be had in Your presence.

We praise You for Christ who came that we might have this joy by faith in Him. We praise You for the church, this community of the saints. We praise You for Your word.

We praise You for the gift of prayer. here. And we pray, that we would not leave here without committing to seek You and to seek to enjoy You from the heart this year. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.