

# **We Will Be a Rejoicing People**

**January 10, 2021**

**Ephesians 1:3-12**

The biblical account of the Bible is about what God has been doing, what He is doing and what He is going to do. He made it clear that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)

Where does your hope lie? Is it in the stock market? Is it in this last election(s)? Is it in a President? Is it in your bank account? Is it in your family? Is it in your job? Is it in your status? When you wake up in the morning what is it that gets you going? Something that happened yesterday, the news, God's Word?

We are going to walk thru, ask and answer some of these questions this morning!

## **Why are you here?**

There was hope before democracy. There was hope and peace before America. That hope was not in America. Our only hope is found in God and in the Word of God. Recorded in the words of Deuteronomy 8:3 are the words, "man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Jesus quoted those words when He was being tempted by the devil. I must dwell with God and His Word.

## **Who or what determines your disposition?**

*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)***

Who or what gets you fired up?

## **Who controls the mind?**

Too often we want a microphone. We see that things are not right and we want to get that out. We each have a voice. You have great influence with your family and friends. Tell people who you believe God to be. Tell them of His greatness.

Negative mind-control is the constant bombardment of our minds with lies, half-truths and manipulation.

Positive mind-control is putting your mind intentionally on the truth.

## **What kind of people ought we to be?**

We ought to be the most confident, hopeful, peaceful and secure people in the world as Believers. Our mind should be set on God first and foremost and then on others experiencing and knowing the God that we know.

Over the seven years we will be focused on what we are calling "Vision 2027." This vision comes straight from God and His Word. In fact, it flows from, "loving Jesus and leading others to love Him too." I am asking you this morning to jump on board.

**VISION: Rejoicing as people come to life in Christ (salvation and sanctification).**

**MISSION: Building relationships that lead to Gospel transformation.**

**The answer and the challenge: What kind of people ought we to be? Why are we here? Who or what controls our mind?**

**We are to be a people who rejoice in the Lord. (We will be a rejoicing people.)**

**We are to be a people who engage others. (We will be an engaging people.)**

**We are to be a people who disciple others. (We will be an disciplining people.)**

**We are to be a people who are hopeful. (We will be an encouraging people.)**

My goal, and my task as your Pastor is to lead the way in this that we will be "a rejoicing people who engage others, to help them grow in their faith, to encourage them on their journey to experience the hope that comes through the message of the Gospel."

Let's get started!

*I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. <sup>2</sup> My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. <sup>3</sup> Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. **Psalms 34:1-3 (NKJV)***

This is not a covert operation. We are not secret agents. We are to do this daily, hourly, minute by minute.

This is intentional, planned and instructed.

<sup>16</sup> *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)*

We were created in the image of God. He placed His DNA in us that we would reflect Him. That image was marred by sin. God has in history taken steps to restore His image in man.

### **What God has done and why?**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, <sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, <sup>10</sup> that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:3-12 (NKJV)*

**He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.**

**He has chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless.**

**He has predestined us to adoption as His children.**

**He has made us accepted in the beloved.**

**In Him we have redemption.**

**In Him we have forgiveness.**

**...That we should be to the praise of His glory.**

**Look back up at what He has done. We worship Him for who He is and what He has done.**

**...Therefore, we will be a rejoicing people.**

### **Praise-Boasting**

It seems we are wired to have something to feel good about. We want something to celebrate and get up in the morning and anticipate. We want good news. We want hopeful news. But it seems like we are surrounded with the bad news.

<sup>21</sup> *but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD-- Numbers 14:21 (NKJV)*

*Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. <sup>4</sup> Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. Selah <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. Psalm 67:3-5 (NKJV)*

*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. Proverbs 13:12 (NKJV)*

*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)*

We live in a fallen, sin affected world. I have lived here for 40 years. I have been disappointed, in despair, fearful, depressed, broken and undone. However, I am like Job just on the best side of the cross and empty tomb.

*For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; <sup>26</sup> And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25-26 (NKJV)*

**Consider the need. People are constantly being bombarded with the negative news with no hope.**

**WE HAVE HOPE! REJOICE IN IT, SHARE IT, LIVE IT!**

### **Prayer Focus:**

**Realize God has made me to be to the praise of His glory.**

**I will boast in the Lord (His goodness, who He is, what He has done/is doing, His promises).**

**I will tell someone about His greatness each day.**