



To Enjoy Him Forever

While shaking hands at the church door, ministers are sometimes greeted with a spontaneous, “I really enjoyed that!”—which is immediately followed by, “Oh! I shouldn’t really say that, should I?” I usually grip tighter, hold the handshake a little longer, and say with a smile, “Doesn’t the catechism’s first question encourage us to do that? If we are to enjoy Him forever, why not begin now?”

Of course, we cannot enjoy God apart from glorifying Him. And the Westminster Shorter Catechism wisely goes on to ask, “What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?” But notice that Scripture contains the “rule” for enjoying God as well as glorifying Him. We know it abounds in instructions for glorifying Him, but how does it instruct us to “enjoy him”? Enjoying God is a command, not an optional extra: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice” ([Phil. 4:4](#)). But how? We cannot “rejoice to order,” can we?

True. Yet, Scripture shows that well-instructed believers develop a determination to rejoice. They *will* rejoice in the Lord. Habakkuk exemplified this in difficult days (see [Hab. 3:17–18](#)). He exercised what our forefathers called “acting faith”—a vigorous determination to experience whatever the Lord commands, including joy, and to use the God-given means to do so. Here are four of these means—in which, it should be noted, we also glorify God.

Joy in Salvation

Enjoying God means relishing the salvation He gives us in Jesus Christ. “I will take joy in the God of my salvation” ([Hab. 3:18](#)). God takes joy in our salvation ([Luke 15:6–7](#), [9–10](#), [32](#)). So should we. Here, [Ephesians 1:3–14](#) provides a masterly delineation of this salvation in Christ. It is a gospel bath in which we should often luxuriate, rungs on a ladder we should frequently climb, in order to experience the joy of the Lord as our strength

([Neh. 8:10](#)). While we are commanded to have joy, the resources to do so are outside of ourselves, known only through union with Christ.

Joy in Revelation

Joy issues from devouring inscripturated revelation. Psalm 119 bears repeated witness to this. The psalmist “delights” in God’s testimonies “as much as in all riches” ([Ps. 119:14](#); see also vv. 35, 47, 70, 77, 103, 162, 174). Think of Jesus’ words, “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” ([John 15:11](#)). Does He mean He will find His joy in us, so that our joy may be full, or that His joy will be in us so that our joy may be full? Both, surely, are true. We find full joy in the Lord only when we know He finds His joy in us. The pathway to joy, then, is to give ourselves maximum exposure to His Word and to let it dwell in us richly ([Col. 3:16](#)). It is joy-food for the joy-hungry soul.

Joy in Communion

There is joy in the Lord to be tasted in the worship we enjoy in church communion. The church is the new Jerusalem, the city that cannot be hidden, the joy of the whole earth ([Ps. 48:2](#)). In the Spirit-led communion of praise and petition; soul pastoring; Word preaching; psalm, hymn, and spiritual song singing; and water, bread, and wine receiving, abundant joy is to be found. The Lord sings over us with joy ([Zeph. 3:17](#)). Our hearts sing for joy in return.

Joy in Tribulation

Here, indeed, is a divine paradox. There is joy to be known in the midst of and through affliction. Viewed biblically, tribulation is the Father’s chastising hand using life’s pain and darkness to mold us into the image of the One who endured for the sake of the joy set before Him ([Heb. 12:1–2](#), [5–11](#); see [Rom. 8:29](#)). We exult and rejoice in our sufferings, Paul says, because “suffering produces . . . hope” in us ([Rom. 5:3–4](#)). Peter and James echo the same

Sermon Schedule

- 2/7 “Our Purpose...Praise the Lord!” *Psalm 8*
- 2/14 “A Sure Hope”
Romans 5:1-5
- 2/21 “Painful Providence at the Lord’s Hand” *Ruth 1:1-22*
- 2/28 “Gracious Provision from the Lord’s Hand in Painful Providence” *Ruth 1:1-22*



principle ([1 Peter 1:3–8](#); [James 1:2–4](#)). The knowledge of the sure hand of God in providence not only brings stability; it is also a joy-producer.

All of this adds up to exultation in God Himself. In [Romans 5:1–11](#), Paul leads us from rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God (v. 2) to joy that comes in tribulation (v. 3) to exulting in God Himself (v. 11; see [Ps. 43:4](#)). The unbeliever finds this incredible, because he has been blinded by the joy-depriving lie of Satan that to glorify God is the high road to joylessness. Thankfully, Christ reveals that the reverse takes place in Him—because of our salvation, through His revelation, in worship’s blessed communion, and by means of tribulation.

Enjoy! Yes, indeed, may “everlasting joy . . . be upon [your] heads” ([Isa. 51:11](#)).

Reproduced with permission. Ligonier.org

[To Enjoy Him Forever by Sinclair Ferguson \(ligonier.org\)](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01 Jennifer Forrest	02 Grant Thomas Miller Circle #1 Diaconate Meeting Men's Basketball	03 Judy Ferguson Renee Wilmoth Victoria Linder Nathan Weatherby	04 Suzanne Johnson Girls Basketball Practice Men's Basketball	05 Bill Jackson	06 Sam Hall
07 Deacon's Fund Collection Tyler Britt	08 Julie Marsh Men of the Covenant Circle #3	09 Wes Jackson Circle #2 Men's Basketball	10 Helen Bean Colleen Riddle Circle	11 Girls Basketball Practice BCA Meeting- Covenant SS Room Men's Basketball	12 Heath McMullan Marshall Piano tuning	13 Sarah Drechsler
14 Kaelin Clinton Trinna Meek Jason Payne Session Meeting	15 Emma Sorey	16 Lindsay LeMoyné Thomas Chidester II Men's Basketball	17 Kim Drechsler	18 James Spangler Garrett Hall Girls Basketball Practice Men's Basketball	19 Griffin Marsh	20 Lorie Holben
21 Spencer Forrest Charlotte Jackson	22	23 Cane Hoffman Men's Basketball	24 Helen Grant Nicole Lawton WIC Council Meeting	25 Men's Basketball	26 David McFalls	27 FLC-Rsv'd
28	01	02	03	04	05	06

Diaconate Meeting: Feb. 2, 7:00pm, Sanctuary.

Men of the Covenant: Feb. 8, 6:30pm, FLC for a meal, devotional and program.

All Bethel men are invited to attend.

Session Meeting: Feb. 14, 2:00pm, Sanctuary, joint meeting with Deacons.

WIC Council Meeting: Feb. 24, 6:30 pm, Covenant SS room.

Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 2:30 PM in the sanctuary with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Blake, for the regular monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order and opened with the reading of the Scriptures from John 13:31-35 and prayer by the Moderator.

A quorum was present. Elders present: Robert C. Love, Jr., Calvin B. Reese, Steven T. Britt, Corey C. Clinton, D. Ross Love, Joseph P. LeMoyne, James G. Long, L. Christopher Griesman, Daniel B. Love and W. Hampton Stowe, III. Also present were Adam Coble, Diaconate Chairman, Gunther Griffin, Pastoral Intern, and Bob Richards, Elder Emeritus/Trustee.

Adam Coble gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the January 5, 2021 Deacons meeting. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated December 31, 2020 all of which are appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. MSA the Deacons Report, Financial Report, minutes, and actions/recommendations. Adam was then dismissed from the meeting by Chris Griesman.

MSA the minutes of the Session meetings held the morning of December 13, 2020 (Ordination and Installation) and the afternoon of December 13, 2020 (regular scheduled Session meeting), as well as the December 13, 2020 Congregational meeting minutes, as written and emailed to the Session.

A brief discussion was held regarding Elder shepherd training for 2021, and revised Shepherding lists were distributed.

MSA the 2020 Statistical Report as prepared by Bobby love, and emailed to the Session, a copy of which is appended to the file copy of these minutes.

MSA that Steve Britt and James Long serve as representatives, and that Bobby Love and Calvin Reese serve as alternates, to the upcoming 79th meeting of Fellowship Presbytery to be held at Christ Ridge PCA January 23, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

MSA to affirm the following regarding Church property: That Bethel PCA provides the use of the manse, utilities included, to the Pastor at fair rental value. That Bethel PCA provides the use of the Kendrick House, utilities included, to an Associate/Assistant Pastor at fair rental value. That Bethel PCA provides the use of the Price House, utilities included, to the Pastoral Intern at fair rental value.

MSA a Session encouraged, focused working time away from the day-to-day routine and demands of ministry for Bethel's Senior Pastor, for rest, reflection, prayer, planning, and study, to:
Be an intentional time of prayerful pursuit of focused time personally with the Lord.

Be an intentional time of prayerful development of priorities for moving out of COVID protocol.
Be an intentional time of prayerful staffing search considerations; such encouraged time away to be April 11 – April 30, 2021.

Bobby Love provided an update on the Duke Energy land sale transaction.

Gunther Griffin provided an update. His studies are progressing, and he is doing well. Sam continues to heal

from her surgery. They recently visited family and had a good time of rest. The Youth Group ministry at Bethel is going well, with recent attendance by 7 students at Ridge Haven Winter Conference, plans for resumption of Bible Studies in the next couple of weeks, and a ski trip retreat planned in January.

MSA to remove Rebecca Meek Langston from Bethel's Roll at her request, as she has joined The Church at Cherrydale, in Greenville, SC.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2021.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Dan Love.

Robert C. Love, Jr.,
Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building fund

Balance Dec. 31: \$1,353,569
December: \$59,904

Tithes and Offerings

2020 Budget: \$671,274
YTD Dec. 31: \$518,639
December: \$72,602

Building Plans Update:

We are currently working on building plan options and we are making some progress. We will communicate updates with more information for congregational consideration and approval as soon as we can. Given circumstances, we do not yet know when appropriate time to begin project might be... THANK YOU for your continued patience and prayers!

International Missions Spotlight

Michael and Tricia Lee

Republic of Panama

Michael and Tricia Lee serve as MTW missionaries to the Republic of Panama where they are involved in church planting and discipleship training. They serve together as coordinators for both Member Care and Global Training and Development for all of MTW Latin America. Michael also serves as the MTW Regional Coordinator for Central America. He is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). For those of you who haven't had the opportunity of meeting or knowing Michael and Tricia, Michael served at Bethel, first as Ministerial Intern for four years while studying for his M.Div., and then afterward for five more years as Associate Pastor. Tricia also assisted in the ministry life at Bethel where she often coordinated the Children's Christmas Play, participated in the Women of the Church, and played an integral part in the Youth Ministry.



It was during their last three or four years at Bethel that the Lord placed a deep sense of calling for international ministry in the Lee's hearts. Tricia, a nurse for more than 25 years, has a heart for mercy ministry. She desires to see the church in Panama develop a heart of mercy for those who are suffering. Michael seeks to see the Kingdom of God advance through church planting, discipleship training, and through intentional acts of mercy. The Lees served first with MTW in Monterrey, Mexico before being led to Panama. The Lees have 3 children and 3 grandchildren, all who live in South Carolina.

They ask that we continue to support them through prayer for:

Growth and spiritual maturity of their young church in Panama.

The Holy Spirit to guide them and give them wisdom in mentoring national leaders to some day take over the leadership of their church.

Their three adult children and their families as they work to navigate through their day to day lives here in South Carolina.

PRAYER Requests



- The Van Vlakte family
- New Assistant Pastor search
- Intern Gunther Griffin and his wife Sam
- Elders, Deacons, WIC officers, Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders, Youth leaders/teachers, giving thanks for their faithfulness and willingness to serve
- Local ministries such as God's Kitchen, Clover Area Assistance Center and Biblical Studies Released Time
- Reformed University Fellowship
- Our missionaries serving through the country and the world
- Our community and our country, especially for wisdom and safety in dealing with Covid-19
- Please pray for the lost that don't know of or believe in Jesus. Pray as well for Bethel and other bible-believing and gospel preaching churches to be blessed in our efforts to evangelize and make disciples locally and to the ends of the earth
- Our college students
- Expectant mothers and their unborn babies within the church family
- Bobby Armstrong (brother-in-law of S. McCarter Mizell, cancer), Rick Duke (cancer) and wife Judy (friends of C. Davis), Judy Ferguson (healing from surgery), Margaret Ann Ferguson, Kathy Forester (E. Moseley's sister, breast cancer), Matthew Hall, Miriam Hovis, Mrs. Rita Jackson, Jan Kombs (friend of J. LeMoyne, stroke), Herb LeMoyne (J. LeMoyne's brother, Parkinson's disease), Dana Massey (advanced brain cancer, friend of S. Burns), Annie Mae McDaniel (J. Ferguson's mother), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, cancer), Adam Stowe (leukemia) and Norm West.