

Series Title: Advent 2018

Sermon Title: Week of Joy: Five false beliefs that will steal your Joy, *and the Truths that set Joy free!*

Date: 12-16-18

† The Gospels shocking promise: In Christ, we (disciples of Jesus) have been given the ever-present power of JOY.

John 16:21-22 *A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²² So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*

John 15:10-12 *If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

† False Belief #1: PAIN is BAD, and I need to protect myself from experiencing it.

TRUTH! Pain is actually one of God's most important gifts

Hebrews 12:10-11 *They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

† False Belief #2: My well-being depends on meeting the expectations of OTHERS.

Mark 10:17-22 *As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

¹⁸ *"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"*

"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹ *Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

²² *At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.*

TRUTH! My well-being is in CHRIST, and comes from living by GRACE, not by keeping the LAW.

Romans 7:6 *But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.*

† False Belief #3: My core needs can be supplied by a source other than GOD

TRUTH! Jesus is the key to all of my needs being met, HE is the source!

2 Peter 1:1-3 *Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: ² Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

† False Belief #4: The standards of MY JUSTICE system must be met by everyone.

TRUTH! Justice is God's domain and He simply calls me to love and forgive

Galatians 5:1, 13-15 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

¹³ *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*

† False Belief #5: My REAL SELF will never be good enough.

TRUTH! Because I am God's masterpiece, I am worth BEING, KNOWING, and LOVING.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*