



REDEEMING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

# THE ENCOURAGER

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

### TRUE JOY AND PLEASURE

It seems as if people are always searching for that which is so elusive. Joy and pleasure are two ingredients people are looking for in life. This is true for the believer and unbeliever alike. Alarmingly, believers and unbelievers are looking for joy and pleasure in much the same ways. Perhaps this is why it is estimated that over 40 million Americans suffer from depression. America is purported to be one of the richest nations in the world, but yet has the highest percentage of those with depression.

Most people equate joy and pleasure with money and the material possessions which can be obtained with money. One only has to look at movie stars and sports stars to see that money and other worldly possessions will not make us joyful or give us pleasure. In fact, many who are rich according to the worldly standard are miserable. So what is the answer? Simply put, the answer is Christ.

Recently I was pondering Psalm 16:11 "*In your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*" This single verse tells us where to find everlasting joy and pleasure. Ultimate joy and pleasure will never be found on earth. Full joy can only be found in the full presence of God. Unbelievers may not comprehend this, but believers should. As believers we need to realize that God never intended earth to be a resort we check into until our life ends. Instead God intended our time on earth to be difficult in terms of our cir-

cumstances "*Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil*" (Job 14:1).

So what can we conclude from this in regards to joy and pleasure? We should conclude that joy and pleasure will only be full in heaven when we are in God's full presence. What then can we do for our greatest joy and pleasure on earth in the meantime? Logically the thing we must do is to be as close to God now as possible. The more of God we have the more joy and pleasure we will have. Do you find your greatest joy and pleasure in God?



Pastor Mike

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THE WORD  
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THROUGH WORSHIP AND  
THE WORD; **MOVING**  
**BELIEVERS IN JESUS**  
TOWARD MATURITY AND  
MINISTRY, AND **MAKING**  
**JESUS KNOWN** TO OUR  
NEIGHBORS AND THE  
NATIONS



