

ARBC
Sunday, August 28, 2011

Pastor Seth: Everyone welcome to ARBC why don't you stand up and praise God with us.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Take this time to welcome each other; give them a hug and tell them that you love them.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Seth: Everyone can be seated.

Video-You want your kids to have a relationship with God right? Don't leave it up to just the Sunday school teacher. What happens when time doesn't allow you to be the parent you want to be? Parents that partner with the faith community is the best way to teach them and keep them there.

Pastor Donnie: Good morning! Everyone is awake; Parenting Beyond your capacity is something that we will be doing. I want it to be an encouraging time for parents to get together. In B hall and please sign up, there will be books, video, etc.

Operation Christmas Child is coming in the next few months. Please be aware of the opportunity to help to pay for the postage which is about \$7.00/box.

Tonight is our 2nd week of Awana; starts at 5:00. We still need adults for that. Sign up in the hall for that too.

Next Sunday is no Sunday school but we will have regular church service at 10:45. We will not have Financial Peace University that weekend either but you will have to make it up at one of the other times. Also no service Sunday night; this is because of Labor Day.

FPU - lesson 4 is coming up and that is where you invite your friends. You may know of someone that needs to hear some of that stuff. I think it is about credit cards so everyone needs to hear that.

I have been warned the men's Ministry dinner on Sept 9th; the warning is if you don't sign up, someone will come to your house.

We will have a very special ladies Ministry coming up soon. (Video of Beth Moore - simulcast on September 10th)

Woman Speaking: Good morning church! That is Beth Moore. Many of you ladies received a handout. It will be on Saturday Sept 10th. It starts at 10:30 and ends at 5:00; you have to sign up at ARBC.Org. It is \$20 with lunch and \$15 without lunch, but if you pay this week you will have a \$5.00 discount. If you haven't signed up yet, please do that now. You know Beth Moore is an awesome teacher.

TeaTime is also still available.

Pastor Donnie: Thank you. I want to welcome you this morning, if you are a visitor we are glad you are here. In the bulletin you will see the tear out, please fill that out and let us know about any prayer requests; register for Wednesday night supper which is Chic-Fil-A this week. Put that in the offering plate this morning. The prayer requests are prayed for every Monday morning. It's good to see you folks.

Pastor Tim: It's good to see you and this morning we will talk about happiness and what it takes to be happy. We will study that today.

Do you see this beautiful award here? It's for Robby Johnson for 4th place in the Special Olympics. God Bless you and we love you. That is awesome. Thank you.

We also have a very special birthday today. Ms Marie Green. The flowers are from your family, God bless you and it's wonderful to celebrate that with you.

I see Ms Mary came in, it's also her birthday. Happy birthday.

We will have time of prayer; praises. First praise, we have new air conditioning in here and in the nursery.

Also, we want to pray for Michelle Roberts and her family; Jane Gunners mom passed as well; yesterday Becky Castonia's mom passed away. This week Jane will be coming home and having surgery. Also Russ and others recovering from surgery.

Father, we thank you for this morning. Thank you that you have looked over our church family, and many folks going through difficult times. We pray for those that have lost family members. Russ and others having surgery

Thank you for the birthdays and we thank you for supernatural presence. We pray in your name, Amen.

Pastor Seth: We will teach you a new song. If you can't pick up on the beat and stuff just watch the screen. It is a powerful testimony.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Seth: God, we come to you and thank you for how amazing and how wonderful you are. You did break the curse of sin. We love you and thank you as we bring our offering back to you. We love you father, Amen.

(Choir Singing...Words on large overhead screen)

Applause!

Pastor Seth: We are going back and do another song that you may or may not know. Hang out with us and sing, when the offering is passed just take time to worship God. We can sing praise while giving God our money, because he deserves it.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

You can all stand and sing with us as we sing praises to God.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Applause!

Because our God is stronger, higher and awesome; we love to come together as a church and sing. This is an awesome song.

(Singing... Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Tim: Let's pray. Father, what a great peace can be ours when we can cry out and sing out, it is well with my soul. To be able to rest in the confidence of knowing you as our Lord and Savior. May you have freedom to rule and reign through this place. Fill our hearts with your spirit, we pray in your name, amen. (Applause)

If you have your swords turn to the book of Psalms. We will be in 126. I was talking before, people ask the question what will make me happy in life. People feel it is their right to be happy. It seems to be there in front of us and today we will look at what can cause genuine true happiness.

I remember sitting with my girls and watching Helen Keller's movie; the great story of Helen Keller. By the time she was 19 months old she was deaf and blind. The story is that Ann Sullivan taught her how to write, sign and what a time it could have been for this young girl to grow up and not be happy. But as she grew up, she was able to travel, write books and tell people of the joy and happiness that she found in life. In a book called "Optimism" she says, no matter how dull or... (Sorry, missed it).

People just want to be happy.

Look at Psalm 126:1-3 listen to what the psalmist says.

1: When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like those restored to health.

God's people are called unto him, and it is like being restored.

2: Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

3: The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Or happiness, yet many times we ask ourselves "what makes us happy". John Stuart Mill says this: Ask yourself if you are happy and you will cease to be happy.

If you have to ask yourself that question, then maybe you aren't.

We will look at what can bring us true happiness in our lives. Like children, we look for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. And the rainbow is caused by atmospheric conditions and there really is not pot of gold at the end. And we find the rainbow is God's promise to us as security and protection. It is a seal for us.

Happiness comes as a certain emotional or spiritual conditions of our life.

I read a book by Elizabeth Hurdock, 3 things are essential to happiness; acceptance, affection and achievement.

This morning we will continue our thoughts about operation freedom, as we look at freedom in Christ, through happiness comes as a result of our relationship with him.

1) Acceptance. Men and women have a need to feel accepted. The deepest problem we have is a sense of alienation. Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden because of their sin.

True happiness can be found only when that emptiness is filled. Jesus Christ has built a bridge that only he can fill.

Jesus Christ is our Savior and also our friend. He gives us our acceptance, joy and happiness.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

2: Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

Why?

3: because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Produces that going forward, keeping at it, when you feel like stopping.

4: Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

I believe we are a few slides behind but you can catch up.

When I am in a home and can share the Gospel of Christ, I tell them you need to be ready for Satan to attack. Why? Because you have not been rooted in the word yet. Not saying that as mature Christians you won't have problem, because you will. But as you grow in him, you will learn how to handle them.

You be ready as a young believer that the trials will come your way. Hang in there.

1 Peter 1:8 (NIV) says this; let it be an encouragement to us.

8: Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy (happiness)...

That when the fiery darts come to us, our strength and happiness is in the Lord Jesus and we must trust in him with inexpressible and glorious joy and happiness he can bring us. Difficulties and sickness will come, we have to realize we need acceptance in our lives and it begins with the Lord Jesus Christ. We can also look at acceptance in our church.

I was talking to a family looking for a new church. The first church was a great church. Dynamic worship, great children's church, etc. But they ended up going to the 2nd church. It didn't have all of the facilities and it was further from their home. The difference was in the 2nd church, people reached out to them, they developed friendships and relationships and because of that they gravitated to the 2nd church. If we are going to grow his kingdom, we need to be accepting of people that come in.

The first key ingredient is being accepted.

The 2nd one is affection. It is the visual or emotional demonstration to every other. Folks know they are loved and cared about but there is very little affection. The love and appreciation is made weak by that lack of affection.

In a former church I was standing in my neighbor's yard and a big truck pulled up and the boys jumped out and gave him a big bear hug and they reach out to me, shook my hand and made me feel a part of their family.

As a church the spiritual health of our congregation is often seen in how warm and affectionate church members are.

We had a great time Friday night with our choir members; you are still welcome to come for that. We meet on Wednesday night fellowship and it is wonderful.

Rehearsal yesterday it was hard to keep folks on track, because they love every other and demonstrate that by talking, hugging, etc. They love being with every other. When you are here on Wednesday night, and I see people talking and hugging with every other that is where the affection starts. It is wonderful to know that the church loves every other. You have that acceptance and affection towards every other. Not phoniness but genuine love.

I remember our first trip to Russia, Mel came up to me and said I needed to be prepared because they take the scripture literally. When they greet their men, it is will a holy kiss. We don't do that, but we need to have genuine affection.

Psalm 97:11 (NIV)

11: Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

As the believers get together, we should encourage every other through our affection and attention to every other. What an encouragement that is. What a joy it is to come in and see folks that we love going through hard times. You see the gravity of our people come and embrace and love one another. What can I do for you, how can I help you?

Acceptance is not adequately felt without love and affection. When we have that we will move toward that rainbow that you see in the sky.

John 15:11 (NIV)

11: I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

He wants us to be happy.

We need to look at affection and be a people that when they are happy they have a sense of achievement. I am reminded of a French soldier named Albert Camus. He said this.

Giving his life for his country was a little thing and would do so gladly, but the pain was to live his life without meaning. Without some ultimate sense of worth and purpose and achievement.

So it is with the church. Everyone must have a sense of achievement. You must be involved in the ministries that God wants you to be involved in.

When you and I meet together and help feed the poor, hungry, visit the sick. When we are telling the good news to those around us, the gospel is affected. We are all gifted in different areas to share. When we are doing God's work, we are filled with great happiness.

Brother Bob and Brother Joel are good about making visits in the hospital. I love to do that too, but every time you do the visits and you walk out the door, you will say you we're more blessed being there than you we're a blessing to them.

As we work in our ministries and callings, that will fill us with great joy and happiness.

Isaiah 35:10 (NIV)

Take heart in this, it is good.

10: and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

For you the believers what a great word that is. Centuries ago Paul wrote in Galatians...

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

22: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance (Tolerance and restraint in the face of provocation; patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (forbearance is being tolerant)

23: gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

That is what Paul says should be fruits in our lives. I believe he was saying God wants us to be happy people. And when the spirit is filling all of us, we will be happy and satisfied. We accept every other and show every other affection and lead our lives to achieve things for the kingdom of God.

The rainbow that God has shown us, no pot of gold but that secret is being involved with our own happens. Acceptance, affection and achievement.

If you are feeling alone in the middle of a crowd, how sad that is. If you are not experiencing the happiness that God intends for us to have, maybe you have never come

to know him as your own, personal Lord and Savior, the Bible says this is the day of your salvation.

Let God come into your life and fill you with that inexpressible joy.

Stay at it child of God, and he will grow you and bless you mightily.

Let today be the day you accept him, move your membership here, find your Ministry and take your life and plant it there. Whatever that decision is, make it for his honor and glory.

Father I pray that your word will teach hearts doesn't matter where we are, that you will speak and draw us close to you. Will you teach their hearts, lives, and draw them unto you. Speak to them today.

I will ask you to stand quietly, and make your way to the alter this morning. If you want to pray alone, come to my right, if you want someone to pray with you then go to my left.

Stand as he sings.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Seth: We will go back and repeat the first verse. If there is something you are struggling with, put that in the place of these words.

God in my resting...

Pastor Tim: What a great morning, God has moved and spoke. Please be seated for just a moment. We had 2 folks from our deaf church; we will let them talk for a moment.

We talk about happiness

Jude 1:24-25

24: To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great happiness---

25: to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Isn't that a great word, that through his glorious presence he can give us great happiness through him? As we leave, be challenged to be a church that is accepting, and will be busy about God's work, God's business and as we do that, God will bless and we will go forward for him.

Thank you Seth, and young folks for helping us today. I won't get any notes this week about not having a guitar on the platform. (Laughter)

This is Alisha Anderson and this in your new church family. We are happy to have you here. OKAY?

Very good, awesome. She has asked Jesus to come into her heart and be her Savior. We will be talking to her about baptism. We will ask our church to come up here and give you a hug or hand shake to let you know that they love you. Alright?

This is Kavough Tindle and he is coming to ask Jesus into his heart. This is your new church family and they love you, they will come around to give you a hug. We are happy for you and will talk about Baptism soon. We will pray, please come around and greet these folks. They will know what you are saying give them love and affection.

Brother Lane, please pray.

Our heavenly father, thank you for being here. Help us to become true joy and happiness. We pray for the 2 that have come this morning. Strengthen them and help them to go out into the world to make more disciples. Help everyone here to share the good news with others. Help us to have a good week and to come back next week. In your sons precious name of Jesus Christ, Amen.