



SUMMERDALE YOUTH NEWS

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"THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS JOY"

The apostle Paul wrote to the church of Galatia and said, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." The message of Galatians 5:22-23 still resounds today. If we are born of the Spirit (John 3:5, Acts 2:38, Romans 8) it is natural for us to bear the fruit of the Spirit. What does that mean? In this space today, I would like for us to consider "JOY" as a fruit of the Spirit.

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of baptizing London McDonald into Christ! It was an amazing moment! After the baptism I went back to my office to start working on my article. I knew it was going to be about JOY, but the baptism gave me some inspiration. Why are we so full of JOY when we are baptized or watch a baptism? The thought of salvation offers hope to the believer. It has brought confidence and assurance in one's eternal destiny. Do you really have the hope of salvation? Do you struggle with doubt? Do you have abounding JOY because of salvation?

Our world overflows with sorrow. Just look around you and you will see riots, sickness, disease, neglect, abuse, violence, terrorism, etc. In homes, places of business, schools, and throughout every community you can sense that something is terribly wrong. There is misery, pain, and tears. We see broken lives, broken hearts, and broken homes are in evidence in every city. Is there any hope for mankind? Does anyone have a workable solution to this mounting problem of human suffering? Yes, there is an answer. Salvation comes with JOY unspeakable!

Christians should be the happiest people on the planet but far too many church goers look like they've been weaned on a pickle. We see sour faced, contentious, negativists that have their heads in the mud. When did we start letting finger pointers, whistle blowers, hypocrites, and squeaky wheels have the loudest voices? Is that the picture we have of Jesus? Or of the early church? I asked a preacher friend what it would take for His church to grow. I thought he might say a few more baptisms, but his response was "A few more funerals should do it." That is heartbreaking, yet possibly true!

We can become our own worst enemy. We forget that Satan is our real enemy and start fighting among ourselves. We lose sight of the fact that we have treasures in heaven and that we are only strangers in this world anyway. I am only an ambassador in this country with a temporary work visa. I don't have time to deal with love busters, grace robbers, faith stealers, and joy snatchers... because I've got work to do!

We must rediscover the JOY and spirit of the first century church. The Word of God! This book has inspired nations and moved multitudes and yet few Christians read it cover to cover, or attempt to replicate its message in their lives. How can you read this book and not be changed? How could someone glaze over the stories of the providence of God, the revival and restoration of God's people, Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, or the good works of the early church?

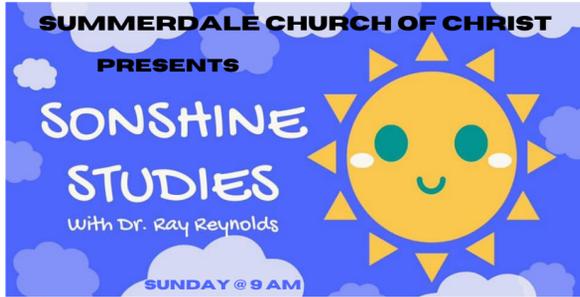
If you are saved, and have the hope of salvation, you should be full of JOY. Psalm 35:9 says, "And my soul will be JOYful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in His salvation." Isaiah 35:10 says, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting JOY upon their heads: they shall obtain JOY and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Romans 14:17 says, "For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and JOY in the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 says, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all JOY and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit."

JOY is a product of heaven and cannot be bought, manufactured, inherited, or stolen. JOY is a gift from God, it is the fruit of His Holy Spirit, and you need it! May God bless you and keep you! Choose JOY.

*You are loved,
Ray*

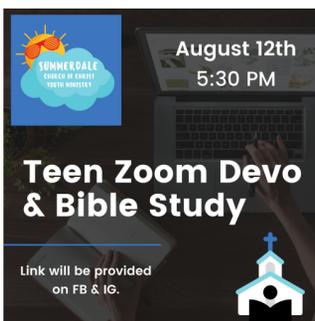


SYG NEWS & EVENTS



The "Sunshine Studies" online series is for our children and is available online at 9 AM each Sunday morning via YouTube. It is fun for the whole family and everyone can benefit from these lessons. The studies for the next several weeks will revolve around the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We will continue this series of Bible lessons until Sunday morning Bible classes resume at the building in the near future.

Welcome to the church family London McDonald! He was baptized into Christ on Tuesday, July 28. He has been attending for a little while but we are super excited for him to be a part of our youth ministry. He is in the 7th grade at Snook Christian Academy. He and his mom Rene will be attending with us now and we couldn't be happier for their decision. If you'd like to drop him a card the address is 2446 West Ashford Park Drive Foley, AL 36535.



We will be having a Teen Zoom Devo & Bible study on Wednesday night, August 12th, at 5:30 PM. The link will be provided on Facebook and Instagram. We will also talk about some of our upcoming activities for the summer. All teens are encouraged to participate and to invite friends to join us as well. Our study will be on "The Greatest Commands." We are hoping to do these every two weeks until we can assemble again.

We've got questions. You've got the answers. Don't throw us shade. It's time to spill the tea. Each week one of our teens will be asked a series of random questions. We call it "7 Groovy Questions." You can find it on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube. So far we have interviewed Brady Long, Sebastian Hall, Carter Long, Zane Rider, Caryn Coxwell, and Hayden Joiner. Who will be next? Corbin Hall! Follow us and watch on YouTube.



We have postponed the Awards Presentation due to COVID-19 and summer vacation. In the coming weeks we will announce a date to honor our L2L kids. Also, Junior Leaders has been put on temporary hold. We are tentatively planning to attend an L2L convention in New Orleans on August 8. Thank you to all who help L2L!

Are you ready for another Game Night? All youth and young families are invited to take part in another game night on Friday night August 28th at 7 PM. The menu is TBA but top votes are for pizza, quesadillas, or ham & cheese croissants. Please bring your favorite family game. We will, of course, have some of the fan favorites: Scattergories, Blank Slate and Charades. This will be an evening of great fun. We encourage everyone to observe the rules of social distancing and masks will be provided if you do not have one.



TENTATIVE YOUTH CALENDAR:
August 8 - L2L Convention in New Orleans, LA
August 12 - Teen Zoom Devo & Bible Study
August 28 - Youth & Young Adult Game Night
September 13 - Gulf Coast Area-Wide



The theme of our church family for the rest of 2020 will be "Its All About the Love."

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