

08.11.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “The Foundation of our Joy at Work, School, and Home”

Scripture Reading: [Colossians 3:23-24](#); [Nehemiah 8](#); [1 Peter 1:3-23](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

One of the things that Pastor Doug said in his message this past Sunday caught my heart’s attention. Maybe it caught your attention too. Here is what Pastor Doug said: “...any work we do for Him (Jesus) is not to reconcile us to Him, it is simply our response to the work He has already done for us. He did the work of reconciliation. As a result, there can be joy in our relationship with God, joy in our work, joy in our serving, joy in our play, joy in our rest and recreation.” This truth “...is the bedrock, the foundation, of all our joy.”

I don’t know about you, but all too often, when it comes to how I approach the different work or tasks or things I do throughout my week, I get this order all mixed up. All too often, when it comes to work or doing things, I approach them as if my reconciliation is dependent upon me. And if I don’t earn enough income, or have the right type of grades, or wear the right type of clothes, or live in the right type of house/school district/zip code, or have the right type of job, or perform the right type of way at this job, or have enough of the right people like me in person and online, or have the right type of children or grandchildren, or drive the right type of car, or..._____. All too often I approach these things as if my reconciliation is dependent upon my performance. And if I don’t do things a certain way, complete reconciliation will not occur in my life. The result of this is that stress, pressure, anxiety, fear, and sometimes sorrow take over in many of these places.

But, when I remember that Jesus has already completed the work necessary for my (and everyone else’s) reconciliation and that there is nothing I can do to add to this reconciliation or nothing I can do to subtract from this reconciliation, joy is able to sprout and flourish in all of these places. Jesus’ work of reconciliation has the power to transform and bring joy to all of these things.

When we remember that we are completely reconciled through Jesus’ death and resurrection regardless of the amount of money we make, we can experience joy with what God has provided.

When we remember that we are completely reconciled through Jesus’ death and resurrection regardless of the grades we get/got in this or that class, then we are free and able to learn and discover about God’s world in each of the classes with joy and delight.

When we remember that we are completely reconciled through Jesus’ death and resurrection regardless of what our children or grandchildren might do or not do, then we are free and able to interact and be with them with joy and grace and love.

When we remember that we are completely reconciled through Jesus’ death and resurrection regardless of the final score or outcome of the game, then we are free and able to simply play and watch the game with joy.

When we remember in all the different parts and places of our lives that we are completely reconciled through Jesus’ death and resurrection, then, and I think its even safe to say, only then, is the joy of the Lord able to sprout, and grow, and flourish in all these different parts and places of our lives.

Could this be part of the difference between our working for the Lord and working for people?

“...Any work we do for Him (Jesus) is not to reconcile us to Him, it is simply our response to the work He has already done for us. He did the work of reconciliation. As a result, there can be joy in our relationship with God, joy in our work, joy in our serving, joy in our play, joy in our rest and recreation.”

Because of Jesus complete reconciling work, there can be joy in all the different parts and places of our lives!

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for completely reconciling us through your death and resurrection. Enable us to allow this reconciling work to permeate all the different parts and places of our hearts and lives so that joy can sprout, grow, and flourish. Amen.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Take note of any places in your life where you may be currently feeling stress, pressure, anxiety, fear, or sorrow.

How might allowing Jesus’ complete work of reconciliation into these places change things?

Songs for today:

[The Joy of the Lord is My Strength](#)

[Forever Reign](#)

[Amazing Love \(You Are My King\)](#)