easy forgiven me that I serve him with a cheerful spirit. Now there are some of us probably who do not even know what this word It may be hard to define. By joy, though, we talk about the feeling of well-being, of happiness that springs spontaneously inside us. It is a delight of the soul that does not change with the sessons or the circumstances of life. Happiness of the world of natural man comes and goes like the rain or like the merriment that is caused by slcohol. Now that is not what a man really seeks or needs but its the best thing

The second thing is the keynote of the Bible.

We who are followers of Jesus ought to remember that the able gives the only religion in the world that has joy. great keynote of the Bible has as its primary sim joy. had a strong note of gladness in it. But it also had a wailing wall of despair. But in the Bible we find that faith is that which produces joy. (xty lines the word joy is used in the New Testament. And the passages are important ones.

When the birth of Jesus was announced, the spenieds, the angels said, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." (Luke 2:10)

Cesus) likened the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hid in a

CHRISTIAN JOY

John 16:19-24

Introduction -

In the 24th verse, which is our text, he is speaking about permanent joy.) One (question) for you today - Are you happy? That ought not to be such an old question to say to you in the church or to be asked by a prescher. If you are not happy, you ought to be and I believe by the grace of God you can be.

I believe today I can tell you (why) many of the members of our church and other churches are not happy. They are not victorious, joyous Christians. You perhaps say "How"? There are number of ways I can tell you. The ways and and and the

Happy people are friendly people. They are people. They are working people. They are motivated. They are happy Christians because they are always ready to recommend their religion to others. They have scenthing to give and that's one of the reasons why I know they are happy.

Now there are a lot of people who are not happy and you would like to know how I know that fact. It's not because I can see in your heart or in your mind. And I'm satisfied there are a lot of people right here in our presence today who are not happy, across theless all a springerized and mi made has wrote bear t

There is one way) I can tell whether or not you are happy I can look at the limancial record of any church and I can tell just about who is enjoying his religion and who is not. There is a direct relationship between the giving of a church member and his joy in Christ. You say how do you know that. Well, unhappy people are selfish people. Unhappy people are selfish people. Unhappy people are sullen people. They are sullen people. They are defensive people. They are fault-finding people. Some of them are even comineering people. And some of them are lying beople. And I can tell who is unhappy by simply looking on the church's record to see what kind of contribution a nerson makes of his

I can judge again other people by their church attendance.

They do not have to say a word but you can tell by their attendance, their loyalty or disloyalty to the church.

money. (If your money is in it, your heart's going to be in it.

ife by the secret sins that you have, by the private practices of gambling, drinking, dishenesty, profamity that destroys your happiness. And it is equally true that joy in Christ destroys these sins.

We may say then that real joy in life is normal to the devont Christians. All that the rest of mankind ever achieves is courage in the face of sadness, a few thrills that leaves him empty and more sad than in the beginning. In other words, the hristian joy and happiness is both a witness that tolks the world that we are right with Boo and a symptom that indicates to

hack to that question which I asked you a moment ago - Are you happy? Do you have Christian joy? Is it in your heart?

First let me suggest modern foes. One of the greatest foes of Christianity as stated by a great German scholed "his disciples" (speaking of the followers of Jesus) "should look more redeemed."

Dr. Faul Tillich asked this question, "Are not many Christians ministers, students of theology, evangelists, missionaries,
Christian educators, and social workers, pigus laymen and laywomen even the children of such parents, surrounded by an air of
heaviness, of oppressive sternness, of lack of humor and irony
about themselves.

As we study his statement, perhaps we would say here is a just criticism. But it may not tell the whole truth. Because I am delighted to see some cheerful smiles around our church and around tome of the religious meetings and assemblies such as Ridgecrest and conventions from time to time.

Usually if joy is on the inside, it will express itself.

(Haydn's) friends asked how it happened that his church music was always animated, cheerful and even festive quality. The great composer replied, "I cannot make it otherwise." I write according to the thoughts I feel. When I think upon God, my heart is so full of joy that no dame and leap, as it were, from

When I think shoul some of the gloomy negative, helf-hearted Christians that I know, it is no wonder that Christianity has
not made greater progress or more progress. So many of us hook
like sad sacks and may God help cur sind of religion. There is
no luster in it, no may, no music in our voices, no hallelujahs,
no amens. Some people seem to think that you can measure piety
by the length of the face. And to observe some congregations you
would think that they have not to mourn defeat rather than to

hird the joy that Jesus emphasized is its source. It does field which when a man discovers it, he for joy sells all that ring, simply, from human nature or from adjustments or from he has and buys that field. (Natt. 13:44)

Frequently he compared the kingdom of heaven to a least, even as a marrie e 1/4t. "The fruit of the spirit is joy." (Gsl. 5:22).

the Goy that was set Before him. (Heb. 12:2).

of God over one singer who repents. (Luke 15:10)

John seld that he wrote his epistle that your (joy may be full.) (1 John 1:h)

And the judgement is pictured as a place where Christians will hear the happy word uter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt. 25:21).

But Jesus pointed out that Christian joy his different from anything the world has to offer. And I believe that with all my heart. The happiness of hon-Christians is always found in one or more of three things. First friends. Second fulfilled of ambition. Third bersonal pleasure. Now these are not constant. Friends may betray you or grow tiresome or grow old or part from you. Second, worldly ambition is disillusioning because it is self-centered and you may achieve it without feeling there is anything else to conquer. And all of us have experienced the empty feeling that goes along with that which is stable. Then

there are thrills that have a variety of expressions. As the are lent stoic listed four cardinal sing / feer, greed, greef and brought me to realize that Christ can be real in a person's life. hilsrity - they pulled within their shell and purposed to live the life of reason. But they found the emotional life drying up and distressing. So they turned their backs on emotion. Jesus talked of joy in a different vain. Listen to him as we read for you ohn 16:19-24.

Now three expressions that stand out in this passage: (First) "your sorrow shall be turned into joy". That is God's method. (Man) tries to ridhimself of sorrow by repressing, by pushing it into the back of his mind, by forcething it. But on the divine plan one emotion is not dubstituted for another. But there is the posivite act to God's truth, God's peace, God's grace which has cower to convert the sorrow. Jesus compered it to the experience of the women in traveil. When the child is born, the joy of this precious new love turns the serrow into joy. Do you see what the master meant? I cannot explain just how this takes place inside of the Christian but I can say

In fact, I witnessed it many times in many ways. For example, here is a story of a woman who has a cander. This is an actual case. Before her illness she was worldly and

careless. Hed little time or thought for God. Now her cancer is spreading and she is not sure that x-may is hardling it but

that I believe it happens and I know it happens.

here is her testimony, "I'm glad that I had the cancer. It has

No worder clement of elexander who lived around A.D. 200 said, "Jesus has turned all our sunsets into sunrides."

And even with a grave illness I'm happier than I was before."

A third-century Christian writer said, "a church is the one thing in the world that always rejoices."

the second place, Jesus said your joy no men taketh from

(22) People who have only worldly joy cannot keep their They blow hot and cold.) They are on again and off again and happiness to them denends on external health, external wealth external youth, freiends, external popularity, or praise. and over Jesus spoke of my joy. He had oppositions, persecution insults, poverty, strife, but he also had God. Such joy causes what Job had in mind when he described God as "he whe songs in the night." (Job. 35:10)

God's people can muster enough joy to sing in th the night. (Paul and Silbs) in prison expressed their joy. The only joy that is worth having is one that is stronger than our environment. Stronger than the forces of nature within and without about us. However there are a great number of people in the world today whose happiness depends on just a few things and a few circumstances about them that will fit their mind and satisfy their own ideas.

our hearts in the midst of the thick darkness of earthly sorrow. can predict what your life is today. It is either superficial, incomplete, without joy or elso you have the deep, adiding joy in your hearts. There are a lot of people who have some outward appearances but they do not have this calm joy within New the lext ring I would like to mention is fruitful Christians. If we are going to have joy, then we must have frui Christians and offurches need to be challenged by the words of Christ on the night of his crucifixion. Or the night before. John 15 - "These things have I spoken unto you that my Joy might remain in you and that the joy might be fulfilled." The things that Jesus had just spoken to his disciples were contained in a

In this case, he referred to the grapevine. There are two significant aspects of the grapevine. And the highlights are given here. Fist is the aim and ourpose of the vine is to bear fruit.

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that people live, plants can grow at least part of the year.

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Jesus seemed greatly concerned that his disciples bear fruit and even much fruit. For he said, "Herein is my father glorified that ye bear much fruit. So shall ye be my disciples.

It was production that he wanted.

(verse 8)

go to a control ware one yell like a Commande Indian but when they come to the house of God, the sit like a wooden Indian. But let me tell you that such spemic Christians are not nowal.

Healthy Christians have a deep, overflowing joy. They do not have a sad looking appearance, they smile. Peir pospel means good news, not just good views. We should never forged that the best invitation the world has to our churches is not a bell in the tower, is not a sign out on the lawn, it's not the steeple of the top of the building, but the best invitation that people have to our church is the radiant joy in the face of the church-goers.

But even from a personal, selfish standpoint, happiness is important. The book of Proverbs has expressed May you wanted.—

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"Morel suffering profoundly disturbs health. Even marriage has all greater asset than joy." Or rather has no greater asset than joy. One all around happiness of temperment is the best insurance of a happy marriage.

This is something the satisfies the desires. And he says "whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do." If ye s ask anything, I will do it. Now here is a note carefully the limitation here. He declares that desires shall be satisfied.

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Christian prayer That loss it mean? Is a prayer which from the Delight thyself in the Lord and he will give thee desires of beginning to the end is reeking with self-will because we say as a kind of charm at the end "for Christ's sake, Amen. " - is tat praying in Christ's name? Surely not. What is the name of Chris His whole revealed Character. So these disciples could not pray in his name, hitherto, because his character was not all revesled Therefore, to pray in his name is to pray recognizing that he is as revealed in his life, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension. It means not only to pray in dependence upon Christ as our only ground of hope and doors of acceptance and God's only channel of blessing but it means exactly what the same pharme means when it is applied to us. of I say that I am doing something in your name, that means on your behalf as your representative, as your organ and to express your mind and will. And if w pray in Christ's name, that implies not only our dependence upon his merit, his work, but also the harmony of our wills with his will and that our requests are not merely the hot products of our own selfishness but are the calm issues of communion with Christ and this means that our suppressed selves and it is not a heather prayer, but I come in the will of Christ. Do we construct our prayers in this way? Do we bring our desires into harmony with We see the certainity of such a prayer and of being answer n one limits non-test and mercanical sit . S and no Limital God knows then how to deal with us and he says bring your wishes into line with my purpose and then you will get them.

thine heart. If you want God most, you will be sure to get him. fiyour heart's desires are after him. Your heart's desires will

be satisfied. What is not a put word . which was at But if your life and your struggling against God and against his will and it is not that his will be done, then there is doubt that your prayers will be answered and that you will receive this perfect joy. The promise is of joy that come of the satisfaction of meek desires in union with Christ's will. Even admist the ups and downs that we have, the changes in life, the tempest-tossed life of ours that he will give us this deep, abiding jewel. It will be filled or fulfilled. If we could picture a cup being filled to the brim with some delicious juice. There is no loss for a drop more. There are Christians in this world who are happy to the very limits of their capacity. anybody so blessed that he could be more so? Was your cup ever so full that there was no room for snother drop in it? Jesus Christ says that it may be so and he tells us how it may be so. Bring your desires into harmony with God. And your will will be satisfied through his power. That we will have the central joy There are some flowers which only bloom in the night and white blossoms are visible when all of the purples and the reds are hid. We do not know the depth, the preciousness,

power of the joy of the Lord until we have felt it shining in

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timue depending upon yourself for salvation. But your first command is to follow Jesus. In beptism.

In the third blace, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you. Proving brings great joy. Prayer can be such a waste of time for some people. God has not promised to hear and answer us if we do not listen to him first. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask enything to repeat prayers rather than to honestly express them is like hypocrisy. We will not find ourselves being cleaned. If we do not study our Bible and find the assurances here, we shall not get the answer.

mystic in Edypt claimed to have some intimate contact

with the eternal, was braveling with a group on a journey. They were walking along through a native village and the rain came and they took shelter in an old bern. As they stood there watching the rain, one of the young pupils who accompanied the sage, asked this searching question, "Hon can's man experience God?" In front of the barn was a patch of green grass. The mystic took off his turban saying, "Hold this and I will show you something." He stepped out into the open and Isy flat on his back with his mouth wide open to the rain. Then he came back to the barn, he said to the student, You see that I mean?" I received the gift

of God directly without an intermediary of any kind.

for ornement, it must beer grapes. And the secret of Christian joy is fulfilling the purpose of being a Christian.

a Christian? What distinctive thing is he supposed to do?

Primarily the fruit of a Christian is another Christian.

If we do not produce, reproduce ourselves, we are headed toward extination. The same is true in religion. The same is true in physical existence. A Christian is supposed to be spiritually fertile. Howels this done? By Christlike living, by service, by joy, by giving, by loving, by teaching and by presching.

Jesus showed this by his own example.

There is a negative side to this also. We might just as well face it because he said in week. "every branch in me that beareth not fruit is taken away." That is, by the gruning instrument, we that cease to bear fruit, for an example he says, shall be cut away. Now if we bear some fruit, Jesus says, the father will bring to pass these things which will make us better Christians. If we refuse to try to bear fruit, we will soon become utterly useless in Christ's kingdom. If you abide not in me, he is cest forth as a branch that is withered and men gather them up for the fire. They are burned (6).

Sometimes we think about this branch that withers and was east into the fire. It could refer to church people as well.

Not that they have lost their salvation but they've withered up,

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. Psalm 30:5.

In ancient Rome a preson guard telt sorry for the prisoner who was soon to die becauses of his faith in Christ. The guard secretly allowed the man's daughter to visit him in his celt. After she was gone, the guard stared at the prisoner until the prisoner said, "Why are you gazing at me?" And the guard answered, "Because you don't seem a bit worned. You are going to die tomorrow and tonight you saw your daughter for the dast time." "Oh, but you are (wrong,) replied the prisoner, "I shall see her again. She is a Christian, also, and Christians never part for the last time. I will meet her in Heaven and we will be together forever."

—w. H. FORD Yes, we'll meet again in the morning, in the dawn of a fairer day; When the night of watching and waiting, with its darkness has passed

Where no shadows veil the sunshine, over there in the heavenly land, And the crystal waves of the river, ever flow o'er the golden sand.

they are useless believers and sometimes God just casts these men aside and they fell in the fires of false doctrines and bad hald to and they get proud and they are unhappy. Now God knowns how but do not forget now the choice is between bearing fruit being cut off, between joyous fellowship with Christ and our fellowship with the world and our power depends upon our body in Christ.

The whole aspect here is that Jesus says the secret of fruit-bearing is abiding in him. One translator says, "continue in me"; another "remain united to me"; another "remain in union with me". That did Jesus really mean? If he meant prayer, we can all pray more. If he meant work, we can all work harder. But he did not say that. And merely praying and merely doing something will not take the place of doing his will as he reveals it.

Jesus said that we are to draw life from him as a tender has prepared for him. We can never say that we are abiding in stem must be attached to the strong branch. So the Christian Christ as long as we do not find out for ourselves what Christ life. We can not be independent of Jesus. If you've ever pruned will is for us. As a matter of obedience of his command to die a grancyine or some bush and you cut off the green leaves and you cover them. Now that is why baptism is entered into devotedly note that in a few mixtures they wither away. Now mithout Christ, It means so much to a genuine Christian. It's a unique comman you can do nothing. In home life, in business, snywhere.

But it's not something that washes away our sins. Or regnerat us. But it's a kind of test to see whether you really intended.

that come out of this scripture. That we've been talking about.

First of all, through Bible study. The word of God. Not

simply that what somebody has said about the Bible. But to continue to read and study these. When people set up books along side the word of Christ as authoritative guides or helps, you are going to be misled. It's amazing to me how many people there are It's a spiritual tonic. It will give who never try the Bible. joy to your heart. And if ye shide in me and my word abiac Second, keep his commandments. Now this does not mean that we do ye shall abide in my love. not do what is acceptable to the Christian community. It that each one of us finds out for himself what Christ commanded. Second-hand religion does not fit or wear very well. ought to allow the Holy Spirit to fit him in the garment that Go has prepared for him. We can never say that we are abiding Christ as long as we do not find out for ourselves will is for us. As a matter of obedience of his command It means so much to a genuine Christian. But it's not something that washes away our sins. But it's a kind of test to see whether you really intended

to take your orders from Christ. It's a picture of a confession

It's more than that. It's a command. It's the first co

of course, wanted to know what happened to his brother. "Hoggy". And he discovered that he was preaching out in California.

What a transformation, what a victory and what a success and all because, Jesus was allowed to come into the lives of these two boys. I also or asid further and extreme and believed to

Dr. Westmoreland said, "I could pay for their heircuts, the baths, and the new clothes. I could even give them a Bible. But I never could have done for them and with them what Jesus di for them and with me." So those two men walk with Josus today. And they have joy in their hearts because Jesus came into their

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Jesus comes to a life, joy comes. ("One sat along beside the highway begging. His eyes were blind, the light he could not see. He clutched his rays and shivered in the shadows. Then Jesus came and did his darkness flee. From home and friends the eyil spirits drove him. Among the tombs he dwelt in misery. He cut himself as demon powers possessed him. Then Jusus came and set the captive free. Their hearts were sad as in the tomb they laid him. For death had come and taken him away. Their night

night was turned to day. So men today have found the Saviour sble. They could not conquer passion, lust and sin. Their broken hearts had left them sed and lonely. Then Josus came and dwelt himself within. Then Jesus comes the tempeer's power is

was dark and bitter tears were falling. Then Jesus came and

broken. When Jesus comes the tears are wiped away. He takes the gloom and fills the life with glory. For all is changed when Jesus comes to stay."

That's the answer.) I am come that they might have life and they might have it more abundantly. To this end I was born

nto the world. The son of ran cone

to midlater and to give his life One of the most varilling stories of what Jesus can do with a life when he is allowed to come in and to abide is related Dr. E. H. Westmoreland of Houston, Texas. He told a story at Ridgecrest, N. C. It was a wonderful experience. It happened when he was a college student. And at Washata College and was conducting a tent revival in a little community out from likedelohia, Arkansas. This was back in 1927. He went about among the people in the community and invited them to the services. There were two little boys who lived in an abondoned box-car down by the railroad tracks. The father was a drunkers and these Arkedelphia to lead another revival. He and the paster just two boys sold peanuts to help support the family. Some ne had nicknamed them "Piggy" and "Hoggy". And they were known by these names throughout the community. The visiting prescher invited them to the services. They were rough, discourteous and declined The next day he learned that they learned liked to play baseBall He decided to organize a baseball team and have a game played each afternoon. Many of the children in the community were coming to the evening services and singing in the Junior Choir. So Dr. Wastmoreland learned that one of these boys liked to sing and to be in the choir, a boy had to memorize a verse of scripture. So after learning about the baseball team and the choir

these boys became interested and they wanted to go but they recognized their regged clothes, cirty bodies and they had an excuse. Dr. Westmoreland was not discouraged. He carried them to a barber shop and had their hair cut. He gave then a nice warm bath, he bought them some new clean clothes. That night they attended the service for the first time in their lifes. or days thereafter you could see them sitting on the street curb reading their Bible and selling peanuts. Before the revival was over, both of these coys were converted and baptized. Dr. Westmoreland returned to his schoolwork. "And shortly thereafter with a prayer in his heart that these two boys would amount to something. Fifteen years passed and he was invited back to leaving the church on Sunday efternoon to go visiting. He heard telking and laughing in one of the classrooms and the pastor replied, "Oh, Mat's one of my descens conducting a Royal Ambessadors meeting. He's one of the best descons that any pastor ever had. He's a young fellow." The visiting minister wanted to meet the deacon and who should it be but one of those boys whose name was "Piggy". What a happy rounion they had together - thins fine Christian went to high school, worked his way through Tashata College, paid his own campaign expenses for disctrict attorney of the county court and much of his money for all these things continued to come from selling peanuts. He was an offiof course, wanted to know what happened to his brother. "Hoggy". And he discovered that he was preaching out in California.

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20, May - Feb, 23, 64 A.M-

cer of outstanding ability in the world war II. Dr. Restmoreland tration is not a perfect one but you can see and you can know Sec, you cannot know God, except through his son Jesus. But once he is revealed you are able to receive him and abide in him and he opens your heart and lets him flood your soul with the joy of heaven. (ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be failed. There are the words of a song that convey great meaning that when Jesus comes to a life, joy comes. ("One sat along beside the

> highway begging. His eyes were blind, the Light he could not see. He clutched his rays and shivered in the shadows. Then Jesus came and did his darkness flee. From home and friends the eyil spirits drove him. Among the tombs he dwelt in misery. He

> cut himself as demon powers possessed him. Then Jusus came and

set the captive free. Their hearts were sad as in the tomb they

laid him. For death had come and taken him away. Their night was dark and bitter tears were falling. Then Jesus came and night was turned to day. So men today have found the Saviour

able. They could not conquer passion, lust and sin. Their

broken hearts had left them sad and lonely. Then Jesus came and dwelt hinself within. Then Jesus comes the tempeer's power is broken. When Jesus comes the tears are wiped away. He takes

the gloom and fills the life with glory. For all is changed when

Jusus comes to stay."

That's the answer. I am come that they might have life and they might have it more abundantly. To this end I was born and for this posts and the world. The son of man came not to be ministred with the minister and to give his like a ranson for man the minister and to give his like a ranson for man the most thrilling stories of what leave can do

One of the most thrilling stories of what leave can do with a life when he is allowed to come in and to abide is related of Dr. E. H. Westmoreland of Houston, Texas. He told a story at Ridgecrest, N. C. It was a wonderful experience. It happened when he was a college student. And at Washata College and was conducting a tent revival in a little community out from arkadelphia, Arkansas. This was back in 1927. He went about among the people in the community and invited them to the services. There were two little boys who lived in an abondoned box-car down by the railroad tracks. The father was a drunkard and these two boys sold peanuts to help support the family. Some ne had nicknamed them "Piggy" and "loggy". And they were known by these names throughout the community. The visiting prescher invited them to the services. They were rough, discourteous and declined The next day he learned that they learned liked to play baseBoll He decided to organize a baseball team and have a gene played each afternoon. Many of the children in the community were coming to the evening services and singing in the Junior Choir. So Dr. Wastmoreland learned that one of these boys liked to sing And to be in the choir, a boy had to memorize a verse of scripture. So after learning about the baseball team and the choir

these boys became interested and they wanted to go but they recognized their ragged clothes, dirty bodies and they had an excuse. Dr. Westmoreland was not discouraged. He carried them to a barber shop and had their hair out. He gave them a nice warm bath, he bought them some new clean clothes. That night they attended the service for the first time in their lifes. I'm days thereafter you could see them sitting on the street curb reading their Bible and selling peanuts. Before the revivawas over, both of these boys were converted and baptized. Dr. Westmoreland returned to his schoolwork. "And shortly thereafter with a prayer in his heart that these two boys would smount to something. Fifteen years passed and he was invited back to Arkadelphia to lead snother revival. He and the paster just leaving the church on Sunday afternoon to go visiting. He heard talking and laughing in one of the classrooms and the paster replied, "Oh, Mat's one of my descons conducting a Royal Ambessadors meeting. He's one of the best deacons that any pastor ever had. He's a young fellow." The visiting minister wanted to meet the descen and who should it be but one of these boys whose name was "Piggy". What a happy reunion they had together - thins fine Christian went to high school, worked his way through Washata College, paid his own campaign expenses for disctrict attorney of the county court and much of his money for all these things continued to come from selling peanuts. He was an offi-