

December 11, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Tim McCardel

Message Series: The Heart of Christmas

Today's Message: Brings Joy In All Circumstances

1. The Joy of Knowing God's Love

Romans 5:1-5

1 Peter 1:8

1 John 1:4

Act 2:46

Three Key Truths:

- 1) The **One thing** the world will pay attention to is a church filled with joy: that is how Christianity conquered the ancient world.
- 2) **Nothing** is more important than understanding the power of real joy in Christ, in our own personal lives and living it out.
- 3) **Sadly** - too often our joy is connected to our circumstances - and so it goes up and down, not impacting nor influencing people who need Jesus.

2. Two Reasons For Constant Joy (No Matter What)

- 1) **Joy:** Because God Came To Us

John 1:14

"The Incarnation" - God putting on skin and becoming one of us.

"The Word" - is capitalized because its Jesus Christ, Who came to live among us.

A BIG Joy Robber: thinking our great efforts can earn us a connection with God, when it's God's Loving Grace: God came to us!!

Romans 5:1-6, 11

- 2) **God Loves Us Just As We Are** And TOO MUCH To Leave Us That Way

1 John 4:9, 16, 17

"The Gospel Is This: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope!!"

... To be fully known and truly loved—We need more than anything." ~ Tim Keller