

SCARBOROUGH BULLETIN

What is happening at Scarborough Baptist Church?

THIS WEEK

The joy of
my salvation

PRAYER:
Commitment to
God



The joy of my salvation...

David wrote in Psalm 51: "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and make me willing to obey you".

So many times the concept of joy in the Bible is linked to suffering. It is not really contrasted with suffering but seen either as a source of strength or linked to intense, deep knowledge of salvation.

In Psalm 51, David confesses his sins before God, comes in humility before him and asks that God's joy will be restored, and part of this is linked to obedience - the implication being that acknowledging his wrongdoing, and turning around and obeying God will bring back the joy he had before.

Think of this verse: "The joy of the Lord is your strength" in Nehemiah 8:10. We don't always consider the words that precede this phrase: "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." That inner joy, deep down - do you recognise it? (Read John 16:24)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday morning Bible study at 9.30am.
The link will appear in the **calendar** on the web page.

Thursday evening Bible study at 7pm.
The link for this is on the **calendar** on the website.

Brighton Kids will still be on the go this week.

Members' Meeting: this will in two weeks' time after the service

Offering: Please consider arranging an EFT as we have no other means of doing our offering at present. Our bank details: Scarborough Baptist Church - BSB 306-054 Account number 4186613

Please pray for our eldership as they prayerfully consider our way forward and out of this lockdown. There will be no changes for at least the next two weeks.

John 16: 13-19: Jesus' prayer for his disciples

'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.



One of the things which Jesus wanted his disciples to know was a deep joy - "the full measure" of his joy - even in the situation where they were hated by the people around them, where they were scorned and probably considered peculiar, mad, to be avoided. This was because Jesus had given them the word, God's word. And yet, although he knows they are despised, he decides that they should stay in the world and be his agents in it.

The second aspect of this section of his prayer is that Jesus asks that the disciples will be protected by God himself - protected from the evil one. Evil is the opposite of all that God wants for his people. The horrible fact is that we can be captured by evil, and turn from God's calling for us to be a people (re)created in his image. Jesus then goes on to ask that the Father "sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." As the holy ones, those set apart for his work, they have the Word, the two-edged sword which "judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart". They are to live by the truth it conveys.

What can we learn from this prayer?

- Jesus loves his followers with an extreme, intense and constant love
- He wants us to experience joy
- He is able and willing to protect us from all evil
- Through him we are sanctified, and this process continues through His word