



GRAPEVINE

SUMMER 2010

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

*As pressure and stress
bear down on me,
I find joy in your
commands.*

Psalm 119:143 NLT



There Just Ain't No Joy in Mudville

"A nap here, a nap there, a day off here, a day off there, sit back, take it easy—do you know what comes next? Just this: You can look forward to a dirt-poor life, poverty your permanent houseguest!" (Proverbs 6:10-11 MSG).

Reaching double sevens this birthday makes me realize that I am in the home stretch.

My friends often say: "At our age we sure spend a lot more time at funerals than weddings."

That's true, but when a Christian goes to glory, it is a time to shed tears and sing songs and that's what we do at weddings, too. Both are celebrations.

The closer we get to the goal, the greater the joy!

We travelled with our five kids a lot during their growing-up years. Almost the minute we left the driveway, the predictable question arose: "Daddy! Are we there yet?" As we got closer to our destination, the excitement and enthusiasm reached a fevered pitch. "I am going to see the ocean first!" With the first sighting there was a shout of joy seven-fold that literally shook the Suburban.

My question for you today is: where has all the joy gone?

When we speak of biblical joy, we are not talking about happiness. Happiness focuses primarily on earthly things: a good marriage, a good job, a nice car, a nice home. Joy is heavenly.

Happiness. Joy. They are what everyone wants and so few seem to consistently have. Parents constantly pipe the message to kids beginning careers and choosing mates: "More than anything, we want you to be happy."

When people decide to divorce, they often say, "I'm just not happy any more in this relationship. There's got to be more."

The late John Denver's lyrical rationalization encapsulates this narrow thinking: "Love is why I came here in the first place and love is now the reason I must go."

We all know the stereotypical image of the grumpy, groaning senior. The crotchety old guy no one likes, the dried up prune of a woman who looks as if she'd swallowed an egg and is afraid to move for fear it might hatch.

Sometimes our kids can get us to loosen up and laugh at ourselves once in a while.

A ten-year-old asked her grandmother: "Grandma, how old are you?"

"Well honey, when you're my age, you don't share your age with just anybody."

"Please! I won't tell."

"No, it's my secret!"

About 20 minutes later the little girl bounced in and said: "You're 62 and you weigh 140 pounds."

"How in the world do you know that?"

"Easy, I looked at your driver's license on the table and did the math. I also saw that you got an 'F' in sex!"

There is potentially even more joy in the last stretch of track than when we first started. There's always joy when you get a promotion! Joy when you marry! Joy when you see friends and family! Joy is an attainable goal as we get close to home, too. It's a piece of cake because the Holy Spirit produces it in the lives of those who let Him. Try it, you will like it!

Joy and laughter will get you a long ways down the road.

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit and it is often the first thing to go when we are living in sin. When David confesses his sin, one of his petitions is for the Lord to restore the joy of his salvation.

**The closer
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Joy!**

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Pearl's Reflections

by Pearl Anderson

My fellow Americans, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as almost every thinking citizen has figured out, we are in a world of trouble, hurt, danger, and insecurity.

Our former leaders made mistakes, but we knew they cared and wanted the best for us and our country. It seems our present leadership is tearing down everything that has worked to make us a great nation:

1. democracy,
2. faith in God,
3. constitutional rule of law,
4. private enterprise,
5. representatives who represent the will of the people.

You say, Pearl, you are getting too political. No, it is time for Christians to speak up.

One of the reasons this nation has been blessed is because we have always been a friend to Israel. Our two countries have been the most trusted allies since Israel became a nation in May 1948.

Here is an example of how the present regime is dealing with our friends and allies. On a recent trip to Washington, Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu was not asked to pose with the president for official photographs. No state dinner was held; Obama dined privately. These decidedly un-diplomatic slights were viewed as insults in Israel. Conservative political strategists fear that President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton want Netanyahu to feel pressure from the U.S. to dump his right wing coalition partners and form a new government with the more liberal Kadima party. This will mean a weakening of Israel and a ceding of land to the Palestinians in exchange for meaningless promises.

Pray the promises of God for His chosen people, the nation Israel. Pray for our nation, especially those who are the redeemed ones by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

"If my people will humble themselves, pray, turn from wicked ways, I will hear, forgive and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14 NLT).

"For the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's will" (Romans 8:27b NLT).

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and wonderful results" (James 5:16b NLT).

"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him" (Nahum 1:7 NIV).

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 P.O. Box 6611
 Tyler, TX 75711-6611
 email: Dam@BibleTeachingResources.org
 website: www.BibleTeachingResources.org
 903.939.1201
 FAX 903.939.1204
 Toll-free phone:
 1.877.DAM.PRAY (1.877.326.7729)

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 Magazine designer: Keith D. Yates

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*A higher standard.
 A higher purpose.*

FAX: MEDIA UPDATE

Ruth, Philemon & Jude Biblical Postcards

This six study series features a love story, the tale of a runaway slave, and a challenge to contend for the faith
#CD450 CD set \$20
#MP450 Mp3 CD \$10

A Great While Before Day:

Volume 9 (July-December)

This volume, enclosed with this *Grapevine*, provides readers with a daily devotional for the second half of the year. You will enjoy scripture and a response from Don six days a week and a devotional from Pearl once a week. We pray this gift is a blessing to you. Extra copies are available to share with friends and family.

#BK919a (January-June) FREE

#BK919b (July-December) FREE

Videoconferencing update

We are moving forward with the scheduling of classes and the purchase of video conference equipment. Watch for details in the fall *Grapevine*! Be sure to check the fall *Grapevine* for information on the 3 videoconference classes scheduled to begin in September in various locales, including Sherman, Texas!

Webcasting update

A new outlet of ministry is now available to us. Don can be viewed via StreamingChurch.tv, a service that allows for webcasting of Don's classes. A pilot class held at Holly Lake Ranch and broadcast to Granbury during the spring and summer was quite successful and exciting! Don Saddoris has included some reflections on the class for our readers in this issue of the *Grapevine*.

Watch for webcast login details in the fall *Grapevine*, on our website, and in our weekly e-newsletter. Soon you will also be able to visit our website and click on a link to download webcast classes from the video vault, too.

This fall you will be able to watch a webcast class on your computer or even host a webcast class in your home simply by logging in during the broadcast times. Details will follow in the next issue of the *Grapevine*. Stay tuned!

Philippines radio ministry

We continue to broadcast in the Philippines weekdays on MPR 105.3 FM. Please pray for this media ministry as lives are blessed by the teaching of God's word!

OnePlace.com

We began broadcasting on OnePlace.com in October 2004. This internet ministry has proved to be an incredible success. People are listening all over the world—from across the United States to Canada, Africa, Australia, etc. Every Monday listeners are able to listen and/or download a message from one of Don's collections. To date, fifteen series have been broadcast and nearly 300 messages have been made available free of charge to anyone in the world. A quick link on our website makes the messages easy to access.

Weekly e-newsletter

What an encouragement! Every week we get positive responses to Don's e-newsletter. These e-mails feature a short message from Don, and, periodically, a message from Pearl. Quotations, scriptures, prayer requests and praises also appear. If you would like to be added to our list to receive these e-newsletters, all we need is your email address. Please contact Genevieve at gen@bibleteachingresources.org to sign up. You may also fill out and return the order form found on page 6.

WEBCASTING: A WIDE OPEN DOOR

by Don Anderson

A huge door of opportunity for good work has opened up here. (There is also mushrooming opposition.)

– 1 Cor. 16:9 The Message

Webcasting was new to me till last year. Now, the more I know, the more excited I become.

Over the last 38 years I have travelled to many cities and towns, giving Bible classes in person. Now I have the chance to visit all of you on two nights a week. This fall, you will be able to log in and access a webcast class on Monday or Thursday evenings (or both). The curriculum will be different for these two classes.

All you need is a computer and an internet connection to take part in the webcast yourself. With a TV hooked up to a laptop and an internet connection, you will be able to show the webcast to a roomful of folks. This will be like having a class in your home, like we used to do.

Set up the coffee pot, bake some cookies, get some nametags, and you will be ready to study God's word with your friends and neighbors.

Please pray with us about your involvement. Contact Genevieve in the BTR office if you have questions or are interested in hosting a webcast class.

A Look at the Granbury Webcast Class

by Don Saddoris

Fifteen people gathered in our home in Granbury for a webcast Bible study this spring. It was a great time and we experienced the excitement we've come to expect from a Don Anderson Bible study. After the study, I asked one gentleman in attendance when he and his wife were going to Colorado. They usually spend the summer in Pagosa Springs. He said that they normally leave the first of June, but that they are considering delaying their trip so they could finish Don's Revelation series. Although we had discussed with the group the fact that anyone could watch the study on their home computers, another man told me later in very definite terms that he felt it was important for us to continue to meet together as we had tonight. So I would have to say that the study met with great success. The group continues to grow. The excitement is catching!



Are You a True Techie?

The following has been excerpted from the tech jokes section of the website www.digitalconsciousness.net. In an age of seemingly endless technological advance, we want to keep you apprised of the latest innovations!

New Technology: BOOK

Announcing the new Built-in Orderly Organized Knowledge device (BOOK). It's a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on.

It's so easy to use even a child can operate it. Just lift its cover. Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere -- even sitting in an armchair by the fire -- yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-ROM disk.

Here's how it works: Each BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. These pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder which keeps the sheets in their

correct sequence. By using both sides of each sheet, manufacturers are able to cut costs in half. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet. The BOOK may be taken up at any time and used by merely opening it. The "browse" feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and move forward or backward as you wish. Most come with an "index" feature, which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.

An optional "BOOKmark" accessory allows you to open the BOOK to the exact place you left it in a previous session -- even if the BOOK has been closed. BOOKmarks fit universal design standards; thus a single BOOKmark can be used in BOOKs by various manufacturers. Portable, durable and affordable, the BOOK is the entertainment wave of the future, and many new titles are expected soon, due to the surge in popularity of its programming tool, the Portable Erasable-Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language Stylus (referred to by the acronym PENCILS to those in the trade).

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A Great While Before Day

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Pearl

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"We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods. We use God's mighty weapons" (2 Corinthians 10:3,4a NLT).

Lord Jesus, we lift up our nation to You. We lift up Your beloved nation Israel. We ask for Your continued help and protection against our common foes. Have mercy upon us, O Lord. Please hear our prayer. We pray in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GIFTS

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IN MEMORY OF:

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Clipboard

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In the New Living Translation, Psalm 9:2 is simply beautiful: "I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High."

We often sang around the campfire at night that wonderful little chorus, "I've got peace like a river. I've got joy like a fountain. I've got love like an ocean."

Then we would take time to sing that great hymn: "I have the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart! I have the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay."

After being publically whipped in Philippi and cast in the stocks in the dungeon, Paul and Silas waited till midnight but then came a wonderful song from the bowels of the prison. Acts 16:21: "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God" (NASB).

Simon of Cambridge at 94 years of age was heard to say: "I cannot but run with all my might because I am close to the goal."

FIVE OBSERVATIONS come to mind about joy:

1. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit.

"BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES THIS KIND OF FRUIT IN OUR LIVES: love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" (Galatians 5:22-23 NLT, emphasis mine). Joy is the flag that flies when the King is in residence.

2. Joy is internal.

"You will show me the way of life, granting me THE JOY OF YOUR PRESENCE and the pleasures of living with you forever" (Psalm 16:11 NLT, emphasis mine). "ALWAYS BE FULL OF JOY IN THE LORD. I say it again—rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4 NLT, emphasis mine).

3. Joy is the first to leave when sin enters in.

"Let me again experience THE JOY of your deliverance! Sustain me by giving me the desire to obey!" (Psalm 51:12 Net, emphasis mine). The process for David is described in Psalm 32:3-4: "When I kept it all inside, my bones turned to powder, my words became daylong groans. The pressure never let up;

all the juices of my life dried up" (MSG).

4. Joy is the evidence of God's blessing.

"And Nehemiah continued, 'Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH!' ... So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to CELEBRATE WITH GREAT JOY BECAUSE THEY HAD HEARD GOD'S WORDS AND UNDERSTOOD THEM" (Nehemiah 8:10, 12 NLT, emphasis mine). The wall building has been complete and now the folks are celebrating God's blessing in the completion of the task.

5. Joy is the evidence of right relationship.

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an OPPORTUNITY FOR GREAT JOY. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow" (James 1:2-3 NLT, emphasis mine).

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. BECAUSE OF THE JOY AWAITING HIM, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne" (Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT, emphasis mine).

I trust that this is your response to this meditation on the subject of joy. My mind is flooded with memories of concluding so many special campfires with that wonderful little chorus which is an invitation to come to know Jesus Christ personally. "If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy, let Jesus come into your heart; If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy, let Jesus come into your heart; your sins He'll wash away, your night He'll turn to day. Your life He'll make it over anew. If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy, let Jesus come into your heart."

Joy is the evidence of right relationship.

THE FLAG UPON THE HILL

by Stephen Bly

There ain't much left at RimRock,
jist that flag up on the hill,
saggin' boards of the old schoolhouse,
and Peterson's feed mill.

Some gravel roads and old concrete
is what most people see.
I tell you there was a town there once,
just as purdy as it could be.

Ain't many of us left old enough
to remember the RimRock story.
Write it down careful, boys and girls,
it's a tale of friendship and glory.

Seven boys graduated from RimRock High,
in the class of '42.
The war was on, so they all signed up,
thought it the least that they could do.

And things went fine for the seven,
'til they met with that Army doc.
Young Peterson, he was rejected,
for Jessie it was quite a shock.

Before they left for camp, he gathered them
on that hill behind the store.
And pledged the flag on the pine he would fly,
'til they all were together once more.

Chester Rutledge was killed at Normandy.
Fred Buchanan, the very next day,
Jim Nickels in a P.O.W. camp . . .
How he died, they never would say.

Ben Clarke was lost in the Coral Sea
when his ship sank out of sight.
Al Holt's transport was torpedoed
before he got a chance to fight.

Sniper fire from a high palm tree
brought down Jimmy Ray Bates.
He died in a bed on a hospital ship,
just fourteen miles from the states.

RimRock never recovered after that.
Seems ever' family had lost a son.
They all moved away with grief and pain,
that is, all of them, except one.

Jessie's climbed that hill for 57 years
to fly that flag in the sky.
And he says he'll keep on doin' it,
til he meets 'em in the sweet bye-in-bye.

There ain't much left at RimRock,
jist that flag up on the hill,
saggin' boards of the old schoolhouse,
and Peterson's feed mill.

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