

This Week's Message: **Delight**
Obedience is delight, not drudgery

Summary

Are you ready for some good news? Life in Christ is not so much duty as it is delight. It is certainly not drudgery; it is delight in the grace of God that changes everything. The word, "delight" can mean "soft" or "luxurious" according to its Hebrew root. It means to find something or someone fascinating, to be full of elation because of them. This sense of rapture and being completely caught up in something takes us to the heart of today's message: life with Jesus is full of delight because Jesus Himself is utterly delightful. Our text from Isaiah says as much. The command to keep the Sabbath was not meant to be a weight around their neck. Jesus would later teach that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Isaiah helps us understand why: delighting in the Sabbath was akin to delighting in the Lord Himself (vs. 14a).

Delighting in God like this can be broken down into a process of its own: we praise what we delight in, find ourselves eager to share it with others, and gladly sacrifice what we have out of our great joy in Him. This is a vision of Biblical obedience. The results? Instead of a cold, outward chore, our very desires are aligned with the Lord's. We want to be in His Word. We enjoy the Giver more than the gift.

All of this is the direction God is leading us in our relationship to Jesus. What a complete joy to live a life of discovering the wonders and treasures of who He is and what He has done. It is complete delight. And that's the gospel!

Getting to Know Each Other

1. A popular golf magazine found a majority of its readers would be willing to be shot with a TASER gun if it meant getting into the Masters golf tournament. Is there a hobby, event or experience for which you would be similarly willing to endure a high level of pain if it meant getting to enjoy it?

Read Is. 58:13-14

¹³ *"If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,
from doing your pleasure on my holy day,
and call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

Read Psalm 37:1-7

*Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!
² For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.
³ Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.*

- ⁴ *Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
- ⁵ *Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.*
- ⁶ *He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.*
- ⁷ *Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!*

Getting Into the Bible

1. If we're honest we can come to the commands in the Bible and feel like our freedom is being taken away. Why is it tempting to feel this way about God's commands? How does Is. 58:13-14 paint a different picture of obedience? What words, phrases or concepts stand out to you in the text? Discuss.
2. God's commands are a source of delight for us because they reflect the character and nature of God Himself. Psalm 37 is about the benefits of knowing and walking with this God. Is there anything in the Psalm's vision of life that feels too good to be true? Why? Where do you need the direction provided by these words? What hope can you find here?

Application

1. What would help you more intentionally delight in God and His commands? Is there a time when you've experienced this and now it feels far off? Is the whole concept foreign? How can your group specifically pray for and help you delight in the Lord?
2. Is there a particular area of obedience you sense the Lord leading you in, but you are hesitant or resistant? Why? Discuss.