

Week 1 of "Going Deeper with Christ" October 20, 2019

**J**<sub>esus</sub> + **O**<sub>thers</sub> + **Y**<sub>ou</sub> = **JOY**

## The Choice is Your

**Scripture Passage: 1 John 1:1-4**

**Key Verses: James 1:2-3- Consider it pure JOY, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of man kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.**

Good morning, it is a pleasure and a privilege to share the message and God's sacred Word with you this morning. I hope, trust and pray that this message is not just heard, but received and lived out...

On the heels of our church's seven week study entitled "Going Deeper" and now we as a church have the opportunity to look at Bryan Wilkerson's study called "1 John: Go Deeper in Christ."

What does it mean when we say we want to "go deeper" in our faith? 1 John spells out exactly what deep life with Christ looks like and why really knowing Christ is the most important piece of it all.

How well do we know Christ? Is He just another person? Is He an acquaintance? Is He a friend? Is He a close friend? Is He a father?

Are our lifestyles consistent with our answers to the previous question? If He is our father and best friend, do we strive to know Him to that personal level. Do we desire to spend time with Him? Do we have a relationship with Him? Can we communicate effectively with Him? When we can say YES to that, we can go deeper with our walks and relationships with Jesus.

I like numbers and I love guessing games. As a kid I loved playing guessing games with others, which I am sure drove others crazy. With that in mind, can you guess what number is in my head. I am thinking of a number between 1 and 35,000, can you guess the number in my head?

Yes, the number in my head and in my notes is 35,000, what does this number mean to you and more importantly, what does it mean to the message?

On average, an adult will make 35000 significant and conscious decisions from the time they think about getting up to the time they close their eyes and go to sleep...

What are some decisions we get to make on a typical day?

What to wear

What to eat

Which vehicle to drive

Etc....

Now this can be not so much fun when you live and work with the indecisive people...

What do you want for dinner?

Doesn't matter to me, up to you?

Then you choose and that doesn't sound good in the one who didn't care.

That is a common occurrence and discussion in my family...

Who here likes to make decisions and the choices?

For some, decision making causes stress, for example, this one stresses us all out...

The Optometrist... aka the eye doctor

The A/B or 1/2 test, which is clearer A or B or 1 or 2

Make the right choice, great, but make the wrong choice and you are BLIND!!!

It is safe to say that we all make meaningful decisions each and everyday as the choice is yours.

Too often we look at life choices as a have to mentality and mindset, but with Christ in our lives we GET TO!!

James 1:2-3 reads "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Life is not always sunshine and rainbows and we are forced to make tough choices. When all is good its easy to show joy, but not so easy in the valleys and hardships of life.

How do we show JOY (pure joy) in the midst of hardships?

Quit making it about yourself because on your own it is never enough and you will never be enough. When we focus on ourselves and not Christ and others its too easy to reflect on the never enough and hardships of life.

We can't true joy when it is about ourselves.

It is a Matter of the Heart

When thinking about Joy and choosing joy in all circumstances remember

J- Jesus

O- Others

Y- Yourself

When you love Jesus and love others, you can love yourself as it's now not about you and all your issues. That is when you can have the true Joy in ALL circumstances.

True joy comes from remembering who we are and that we are HIS

He chose us so we can choose Him and in doing so we can CHOOSE JOY!!!

Then with the joy we receive from knowing Christ, we can pass that joy to others and that brings us joy.

This can only come when it's not all about us and the the issues surrounding us.

Jesus + Others + You = JOY

**Read 1 John 1:1-4**

**Read footnote for 1 John 1:3-4**

Sharing first hand experience to the people reading this letter written by the apostle John

When we fix our eyes on Jesus our joy is made complete and our problems don't bear on us like they once had.

So in a world of full of hurt, violence and negativity, if we focus on ourselves and our problems we will be down and in a very unhealthy place.

But in a community with Christ and others as John mentions we can make our joy complete no matter what our personal situations may be

It's a choice and the choice is yours

Do you choose JOY; I sure do and hope you do as well

Jesus and others then self= TRUE JOY

John 16:33- I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome this world.

Problems will occur, that is for sure, but even amongst the problems we still can choose joy as we are unified w/ Christ and others making our joy complete. This will impact the world and your life as well.

Do you CHOOSE JOY?!?!?!?

Are you ready to dive deep with Christ?