

Message Title: Serving the LORD with Gladness

Theme: Life is a matter of choices. God has set up this present creation focused on choices. From Eve until now each of us choose who we will become, not only now but for eternity. Even though many blame circumstances for their failures, the reality is that a great number stand as proof of those who have overcome conditions much worse than those who have failed, and even managed to help others along their way.

These are people who have met adversity with perseverance and ultimately succeeded. These people are looked up to and admired. An example is a war hero who saved lives at great risk of their own, and maybe even suffered permanently from their efforts. Many find pleasure in honoring them in various ways, even to the extent of providing free homes.

In Psalm 100 verse 2 it reads, “Serve the LORD with gladness”. Unfortunately the vast majority of believers serve because of the need, duty, or a sense of guilt. None of these produce gladness; oh we may feel a sense of greater worth if we meet a need but that is a self serving motive.

How can we serve with gladness? In the same way those who honor heroes serve? It is a matter of honor for us to have an opportunity to do something for someone one who has done great things.

Jesus Christ is a true hero in every way. Hebrews 12:1-4 says; “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.” And The Lord God continues to endure the injustice that allows innocence to pay for the guilty. 2 Peter 3:9; “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Salient Points: A church marquis, The flesh vs the soul, Natural vs supernatural, Inspired singing, Song writers motives, Jealous of His glory, Selfish church business, What does God want from us, Making God sick, Selling your testimony, Our deceitful hearts, How important is gladness to God, Wrong motives, Messages on giving, When God says that’s it, God’s favorite children, Natural instincts, Where to give, Deceived, It’s about how not how much, Giving God what He wants, Giving to get, Seeing reality, Why do you give, Mean preachers, Doing it God’s way, Fore warned, Take God seriously, What matters to God, Where is the joy, A lesson from a five year old, Who do we do it for, Appreciating God, Pray to understand.

Series: Our Timeless Creator, Remastered – 1072

Sub Series: Our Timeless Creator 1-18-09

Scripture: Lk. 10:27, Ps. 100:2, Du. 28:47-48, 2 Cor. 9:6-7, Eph. 6:5-6

Key Words: flesh, soul, natural, supernatural, sing, inspire, jealous, business, church, sick, testimony, deceit, heart, importance, motives, stewardship, giving, deceived, work.

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The speaker would like you to know that all of these messages are in the chronological progression that God revealed them, and even though many may stand alone, they progress through several subjects that build on the previous lessons. This series of messages titled "Our Timeless Creator" (OTC), shift the focus from salvation and service, to understanding God. How He who needs nothing, benefits from creating the human race. It started in 2007 when God brought the speaker to Psalm 50:15 three times following the miraculous healing of his dying wife. It reads, *“And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me”*. Following this he prayed fervently. "LORD, show me how to glorify you and I will do the best I can". The speaker had become a new creature, (2 Corinthians 5:17) on May 20 1973. At that moment the reality of GOD's existence and the direct connection to the Bible became miraculously clear. Overwhelmed with excitement he began telling everyone who had a few moments to listen, what he had found, like a man who had found a cure for a terminal illness, which everyone had. His excitement and enthusiasm continued for well over a year, even when many said, "you'll get over it." Slowly his efforts began to focus on responsibility and all the how-tos of service. As the excitement faded it was replaced with frustration. He had said many times "the most frustrating thing in life is, knowing what GOD could do and watch him not do it". In 2005 GOD began a work as described in Job 5:17-18, that changed everything. He says, "it was much like when I first became a child of God all over again". He describes it like application of (2 Corinthians 3:18), "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord". Truly a life changing experience as God increases and we automatically decrease.