

P802

GRACE NOTES PROGRAM

SERIES: CHRISTMAS – a time to remember ALL YEAR

TITLE – PEACE, PERFECT PEACE

SONGS: Halleluja 4:53

Worship the Gift

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes.

We hope you've been enjoying our unwrapping of the gifts under the Christmas tree that Jesus came to give us. It's important to remember that none of these gifts are available until the most important one, Salvation, is opened and received.

John 3:16 tell us why. It says, 'For God SO loved the world that He GAVE (there's the gift) His Only Begotten Son that whosoever BELIEVES in Him shall not perish but have everlasting LIFE (that's Salvation).

Mankind is built for eternity. We will either spend it WITH God or WITHOUT Him. The GIFT Jesus died and rose to give us is offered INDIVIDUALLY and must be received to gain eternity with God. Why not start your NEW YEAR with Jesus in your life and receive LIFE ASSURANCE of eternity with God. There is no price man can pay for these gifts! Jesus paid it all.

JOY is the next gift our host, Barbara Sandbek, will describe for us. Enjoy all the gifts and don't forget to make that Christmas ornament marked 'JOY' for your tree.

Webster's Dictionary defines 'joy' both as a verb and a noun. As a verb, it means 'to enjoy; to have pleasure in the possession of.' As a noun, it is defined as 'the passion or emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good.'

**The prophet Habakkuk used it as a verb in Hab. 3:18b:
I will JOY in the God of my salvation.**

**The apostle Paul, in writing to the Believers at Thessalonica, used it as a noun in 1 Thess. 2:20:
You are our glory and JOY.**

Once the 'something good' comes into our life (Salvation), our emotions are excited. We can then truly ENJOY and have pleasure in our possession of eternal and abundant life, and in the One who gave it to us (God through Jesus).

Life is meant to be enjoyed - not endured. This can only be done when we set our focus correctly and get our priorities straight. The formula is quite simple. Take the word JOY and break it down into three areas.

'J' stands for Jesus.

Keep your eyes first and always on Him; constantly recalling all He has done and is doing for you.

'O' stands for Others.

Putting others before yourself is not a natural thing to want to do, but when you chose to, you will experience great joy.

'Y' stands for You.

We should consider ourselves last in our thinking. This keeps us from getting wrapped up in our problems and becoming ineffective. As you seek to follow Jesus, you will see how He works in your life to bring you to that place of JOY.

Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus endured the cross and considered the shame He bore NOTHING compared to the JOY He would receive in redeeming US for Himself. This overwhelms me.

**The old Christmas carol says, 'Joy to the World the Lord is come'.
Jesus, our JOY, has come TO US!**

An angel appeared to the shepherds saying...

**"Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of GREAT JOY
which shall be to ALL PEOPLE. (both Jews AND Gentiles)
For unto you is born this day in the city of David, A SAVIOR,
which is Christ the Lord."**

1 Peter 1:8-9 says:

**"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though
you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an
inexpressible and glorious JOY, for you are receiving the goal of
your faith, the SALVATION of your souls!"**

**Nothing brings more joy than to be in presence of someone who
loves you. In the presence of the LORD there is FULLNESS of
JOY. (Psalm 16:11 NIV)**

Joy is not the absence of trouble rather the PRESENCE of Christ.

Nehemiah 8:10 reminds us that

"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

******* LENGTH: 4:53**

***** HALLELUJA *****

***I heard about this baby boy
Who came to earth to bring us JOY
And I just want to sing this song to you
It tells of God's amazing gift
From Heaven He came my soul to lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah
Hallelujah 4X***

***A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn to find a place***

*for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
Hallelujah 4X*

*The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
You'll find Him in a manger bed
Immanuel our Savior, Hallelujah
Hallelujah 4X*

*A star shown brightly in the east
To Bethlehem, the wise men three came many miles
and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh they gave to You
and cried out Hallelujah
Hallelujah 4X*

*I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be a man
who'd one day die for me and you
Our sins would drive the nails in you
That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah
OH Hallelujah 4X*

I see a beautifully wrapped gift labeled PEACE. Let's open it.

True peace can't be bought, learned or orchestrated. The peace we long for comes supernaturally from God and is independent of our external surroundings.

Before His ascension back to heaven Jesus said, as recorded in John 14:27:

“Peace I leave with you, peace I give unto you, not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid.”

JESUS came to REMOVE OUR FEAR of DEATH and make us to be at peace with God, the Father.

Isaiah 26:3 says...

Thou wilt keep him in PERFECT PEACE whose mind is stayed on Thee because he trusteth in Thee.

Don't you want that?

Angels praised God and said...

"Glory to God in the HIGHEST and on earth PEACE goodwill towards men."

Isaiah called Jesus, 'The Prince of PEACE', in Isaiah 9:6.

The beauty of Christmas is seen in the peaceful sleep of a little baby who is EMMANUEL - GOD with us!

******* LENGTH: 4:00**

***** WORSHIP THE GIFT ***

We pray you've been blessed by this program. If so, please write and tell us at..

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or contact us through our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.

Join us on our next program where we unwrap another Christmas gift.

Until then, let your grace notes be a song of praise!