

Greenforest Community Baptist Church

3250 Rainbow Drive / Decatur, GA 30034

Teaching on Tuesdays / Pastor Berry

“The Joy of The Lord” - Nehemiah 8:10

“Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Intro

This past weekend, my family and I attended my son’s high school choir concert to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

Much to my surprise this concert was not a sad, sorrowful, or solemn occasion. However, the concert was more about love, forgiveness, and joy.

The uplifting twist about this concert was that the special invited guests were an Asian orchestra accompanied by Asian operatic singers. This was a special invitation because just 6 months prior on March 16, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia there was a horrible attack on the Asian community due to a gunman’s senseless hate crime.

Although the memory of the gunman entering three Asian massage parlors and killing multiple people still stings, the Asian singers and musicians at the concert didn’t focus on the killer’s hate rampage but focused on the joy of the Lord being their strength.

In summary, I left the concert encouraged to focus on the Lord and find security in the fact that the joy of the Lord is our strength now and forever more.

Who was Nehemiah?

1. CONCERNED about the welfare of others (Ch.1:1)
2. CRIED about the destruction of the city’s walls (Ch.1:4)
3. COMMUNICATED with God through prayer (Ch.1:4)
4. CONFESSED his sins and his family’s sin (Ch.1:6-8)
5. CONSULTED with God before taking action (Ch.1:10-11)
6. CUPBEARER to the King (Ch.1:12)
7. CALLED by God to rebuild the wall (Ch. 2:1-5)

8. COMMITTED himself to be a part of the solution (Ch. 2:1-5)
9. COLLABORATED with others to rebuild the wall (Ch. 2:6-7)
10. CONSECRATED to be the leader & Governor of Persian Judea

WHO IS EZRA?

1. Name means “Yahweh helps”
2. Man of integrity
3. Had incredible trust in God
4. Led people back to Judea after being exiled in Babylon for 70 years
5. Return to Judea is like a “2nd exodus”
6. Out of 3 million people only 50K went with Ezra to Judea

Don’t allow...steal your JOY

1. Past or previous mistakes
2. Shame or regret
3. Anger and rage
4. Jealousy and envy
5. Vengeance and revenge
6. Antagonists or adversaries
7. Satan or demonic forces

Find JOY in...

1. Hearing the Word of God (v.1)
2. Understanding the Word of God (v.2)
3. Fellowshiping with other believers (v.3)
4. Teachers who impart God’s word (v.4)
5. Praising and worshipping God (v.6)
6. Each day being a holy day (v.9)
7. Receiving and giving to others (v.9)
8. The Lord being your strength (v.10)

Also, find JOY in the...

1. Omnipotence, Omnipresence, & Omniscience of God
2. Faithful and fruitfulness of Christ
3. All sufficiency and competence of Christ
4. Power and presence of the Holy Spirit
5. Miracles and unexpected blessings of God
6. Nature and beauty of creation
7. Community of family and friends
8. Love and salvation of Christ