



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 12, 2015

HAPPY HOUR!



OK, THE TITLE IS ABIT ENTICING AND YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT IN THE WORLD A PREACHER WOULD KNOW ABOUT HAPPY HOUR. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, THINK WITH ME FOR A MINUTE ABOUT HAPPY HOUR.

WHEN CONSIDERING THE NORMAL DEFINITION OF THIS TERM I FOUND THESE: "A PERIOD OF THE DAY WHEN DRINKS ARE SOLD AT REDUCED PRICES IN A BAR OR RESTAURANT." (FROM GOOGLE SEARCH). WIKIPEDIA INDICATES THAT "HAPPY HOUR IS A MARKETING TERM FOR A PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH A PUBLIC VENUE, SUCH AS A RESTAURANT, BAR, BOWLING ALLEY, STADIUM, OR STATE/COUNTY FAIR, OFFERS DISCOUNTS ON ALCOHOLIC DRINKS, SUCH AS BEER, WINE, AND COCKTAILS."

NOW I AM DEFINITELY NOT INTERESTED IN THE NORMAL DEFINITION OF THIS EXPRESSION AND BELIEVE THAT THE USE OF ANY ALCOHOL AT ANY TIME AND IN ANY PLACE IS UNWISE FOR A CHRISTIAN. BUT I DO THINK WE SHOULD CELEBRATE HAPPY HOUR.

IN NEHEMIAH 8:9-10 THE PEOPLE OF GOD WERE IN THE MIDST OF A WONDERFUL REVIVAL AND THEREFORE REPENTING OF THEIR SINS. THAT IS GOOD. HOWEVER, NEHEMIAH REMINDED THEM THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY CAUGHT UP IN THEIR SORROW OVER SIN AND INSTEAD SHOULD BE CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE FOR "THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH." (NEHEMIAH 8:10B). FURTHERMORE IN GALATIANS 5:13-15 BELIEVERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE. THE ALTERNATIVE TO LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR IS TO CANNIBALIZE THEM! (SEE GAL. 5:15). REAL JOY AND HAPPINESS COMES THROUGH SERVING OTHERS. GALATIANS 5:22 REMINDS US THAT THE SECOND ITEM LISTED AS FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS JOY AND EPHESIANS 5:18-20 TELLS US THAT THOSE WHO ARE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER WITH SONGS AND HYMNS AND ARE ALWAYS GIVING THANKS TO GOD. I'M PRETTY SURE THAT SINGING AND THANKING ARE JOYOUS AND HAPPY EXPRESSIONS.

WHY SHOULD WE CELEBRATE "HAPPY HOUR?" BECAUSE GOD HAS FORGIVEN OUR SINS (NEH. 8:9-10) AND HAS GIVEN US THE ABILITY TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE (GAL. 5:13-15). THEN TOO WE HAVE GOD'S SPIRIT THAT IS PRODUCING JOY IN US (GAL. 5:22) AND, AS BELIEVERS WE HAVE SOMEONE TO SING TO EACH OTHER ABOUT (EPH. 5:18-20).

WHERE DO WE CELEBRATE "HAPPY HOUR?" THE ANSWER IS IN A LOCAL CHURCH FILLED WITH JOYOUS BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS WHO GATHER TO REVEL IN GOD'S GOODNESS. CHURCH SERVICES AT FRANKLIN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH OUGHT TO BE THE BEST HAPPY HOUR ANYWHERE. COME AND CELEBRATE THIS WEEK.

LOOKING UP,
Pastor Chuck Circle