

## The Joy of Seeing People Again

By: Dan Jenkins

I was thinking recently about how many times the Bible talks about saints seeing other saints they have known but not seen for a long time. I started making a list and it kept growing and growing. The list is far from complete. There are likely so many others, but take time to look at these and see just how often God tells us about the joy we have of once again being with those who have touched our lives. This article is not just a list. Keep reading and you will see why.

Think of all the emotions connected with those around Joseph. His first question to his brethren was to ask if his father was still alive. His next action was to bring Jacob to his side. There was grain in Egypt that awaited Jacob during the remaining years of the famine, but nothing could compare with the joy when Joseph was reunited with his father whom he had not seen for almost three decades!

Remember that father who said, “Bring forth the best robe...a ring...shoes...the fatted calf... and let us eat, and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again...” (Luke 15:22-24). What reunion could possibly be better than this!

Paul wrote often to Christians he had known in the past about hoping to see them again. He told the Romans that his desire to see them would be realized. “I long to see you...that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me” (Rom. 1:11-12). In his letter to the church at Thessalonica,

he minded them of the opposition which had driven him out of the city, but that he was still present with them, not literally, but in his heart and that he had “...endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire...but Satan hindered us” (1 Thess. 2:17-18).

Paul had a special relationship with Timothy, his son in the faith, and mentions in both letters of his desire to see him again (1 Tim. 3:14; 2 Tim. 1:4; 4:11-13). He expressed it this way, “...without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy” (2 Tim. 1:4).

My list goes on and on, but there is no space to show it. However, there is another reunion that awaits us. Over the years we have known brethren we loved but are now dead. Can you imagine the joy that awaits us on the other side? To paraphrase part of a song we sing, “What a joy it will be when the Savior we see. When He takes us by the hand and leads us through the promised land; what a day, glorious day that will be.” We miss them so much. We long to see them again. It will happen! If you think earthly reunions are amazing, they are nothing to be compared to our heavenly one!

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# How Many Good Works Are Enough to Save Me? (Part 2 of 4)

By: Selected

Does the New Testament teach that a Christian (i.e., one who has been saved by obeying the conditions specified by the God of heaven) must do good deeds in order to maintain His relationship with God? That question bothers some folks. The question is not asking anything about “earning” a relationship or “deserving” a relationship. The question is asking if the New Testament requires a Christian to work to be right with God. Consider only a few passages.

“...He who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). “Let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). “...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...” (Phil. 2:12). “They are to do good, to be rich in good works” (1 Tim. 6:18). “In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works” (Tit. 2:7). “Let our people also learn to maintain good works” (Tit. 3:14; cf. 2:14; 3:8). “Faith without works is dead” (Jas. 2:20, 26). “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). “Be faithful until death” (Rev. 2:10).

Bible readers know that this list of verses could be multiplied over several times. One cannot read through the New Testament and not be struck with how often God requires that one “do the things” that He says (Luke 6:46). And it is God Himself who ties His required works with our eternal salvation in heaven. Consider only a few passages.

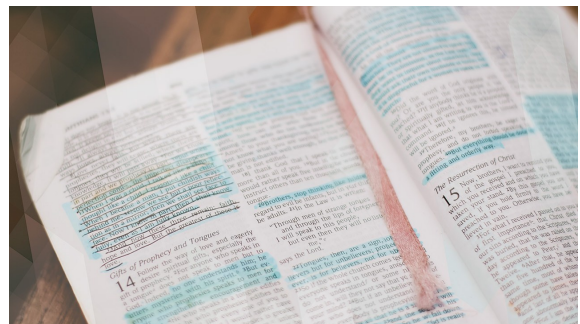
“He who does the will of My Father in heaven” “shall enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 7:21). “Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matt. 25:23). God “will render...eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good... glory, honor and peace to everyone who works what is good” (Rom. 2:6-10). “He became the

author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:9). “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

Again, this list of verses is not exhaustive, but it is a sufficient selection to show decisively that it is God (not man) who demands faithful obedient works “to serve the living God” (Heb. 9:14), as he prepares for an eternity in heaven, where he will continue to “serve Him” (Rev. 22:3).

So what if a Christian does not do the good works that the God of heaven calls him to do? James calls such “sin” (Jas. 4:17), and Jesus identifies such a person as a “wicked and lazy servant,” who will be “cast...into outer darkness” (Matt. 25:26-30). Failing to do the work that God commands of His people has eternal consequences!

It is not “earning” heaven to do what is “our duty to do” (Luke 17:10). It is faithful, required (and joyful) obedience.



## Upcoming Events

May 2-3: Midtown's Challenging the Church with speaker Brant Stubblefield.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Eddie Serenil who had a heart bypass surgery last week in Austin. He is recovering well and is scheduled to be released on Monday.

Veronica Serenil who will be undergoing treatments for her cancer.

Paul Purswell who was in the hospital last week and is now at home.

### **Congratulations to the Drakes!**

Baby Flint was born Sunday, April 12th at 8:01 am, weighing 6lbs. 9 oz.

## Service Roster

Week of April 19, 2026

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Ferman Rosales  
Song Leader..... Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries  
Closing Prayer..... Jake Jacobs

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Cody McCoy  
Cup..... Randy D'Herde  
Offering..... Bryant Siegel  
Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen  
Assist..... Lupe Escojido  
Assist..... Blake Jacobs

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Jack Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Lupe Escojido  
Closing Prayer..... Desmon Flonnory

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Bill York/  
Bryce Dolan

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy  
Song Leader..... Jack Jobes  
Devotional..... James Cammock

### Other

Prepare Communion for April..... F. Rosales

## Congregational News This Week

### Birthdays

Joseph Sheeran..... April 19  
Nahyeli Herrera..... April 20  
Nicolette Garcia..... April 21

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email [office.midtownchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.midtownchurch@gmail.com)

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobs—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have  
turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord  
has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.  
Isaiah 53:6

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of April 12, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....65  
A.M. Worship.....84  
P.M. Worship.....64  
Wednesday Worship.....60

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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