



“The Del-Haven Vision”

“Without vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18)

Newsletter of Camp Del-Haven

Turning Kids from Crime to Christ

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“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Rom.14:17

The Triune God has delivered to us from this text a triune descriptive of His eternal kingdom. The holy, holy, holy character of God (Is.6:3) is reflected from this very description. The context of this portrayal in Ro.14 is one that identifies those that are the true subjects of His kingdom in the New Covenant. One of the principle points of this identification is that as children of God’s kingdom we are not to be so preoccupied by all that pertains to our primary existence in the kingdom of the world around us that we forget that which primarily makes up the kingdom of God. For the things that center on our survival in and through this world are not at all to be mistaken with that which identifies us as being true subjects of God’s kingdom.

The verse says that the kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The significance of this portrayal contains some very profound truth especially in regards to the gospel of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. For since through the Lord alone there is provided the only eternally acceptable atonement, then He, and He alone, is the substance of all that makes up the kingdom of God. He is our *righteousness* (Jer.33:16); He is our *peace* (Eph.2:14); He is the only true source of our *joy* (Jn.15:11)! Hence, these constituent aspects that make up the very substance of the kingdom of God, through the Lord Jesus, become the very traits of identification of all who are the true subjects under His sovereign kingly rule.

The subjects of the kingdom of God are all under the government of Jesus Christ. The first level of His ruling influence is evidenced in the area of the understandings of His children. The Holy Spirit has convinced them all of their sin, righteousness and judgment (Jn.16:7-11). They all come to fully understand that the only truly acceptable *righteousness* for the kingdom of God is, in fact, the righteousness of God. The next level of His ruling influence is evidenced in the area of the conscience. It is in the conscience that the guilt of sin would reign supreme were it not for the fact that the same Jesus who is our righteousness is also our *peace*. He has, through His own body on the tree, reconciled us to God having cleansed not only our hearts from our sins, but also our consciences. Under this direct administration of Christ, *peace* presides over the hearts and minds of His true subjects (Heb.9:14; Phil.4:7). Last, but not least, the third level of His ruling influence is evidenced in the area of the heart. It is here that the blessed Holy Spirit of God communicates the inner calm delight of divine *joy*. When Jesus is the source of one’s joy, there is evidenced in the life of a believer the ever abiding assurance that Christ is indeed one’s personal Lord and Savior. The sweet influences of His love gain a controlling and purifying place in the heart. Under these spiritual influences, the fruit of the Spirit -- “*love, joy and peace*” -- guide their walk. And, being assured of a place in the kingdom of God, they then fill the description of 1Th.5:16 and obey the command: “*Rejoice always*”.

For Christ's glory only!
A. Carpenter

Learning To Serve

We have finished our first week of camp with girls 9 to 12 years old. It was a wonderful week with many blessings and evidences of God's hand in this ministry. One of the greatest blessings is the wonderful group of helpers we have once again this year. In addition to our counselors, we have several young boys and girls who have joined the staff this year in our Learning To Serve program. This program was developed as a continued follow-up with our campers. Once campers turn too old to be participants in our camp program we generally lose contact with them. It is our prayer that this counselor training program will allow us to continue ministering to these young boys and girls as well as give them an opportunity to learn to serve the Lord. You have prayed for these young people as campers, please continue to pray for them as they learn to serve and grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Left: The girls enjoy discovering wild flowers in the field during nature study.

Right: Some of the girl's staff pose for a picture during the first week of camp.

Consider this testimony from one of our LTS staff members, “. . . I was blind and wanted what the world had to offer instead of Christ. There was a lot of unforgiveness that I was holding inside, but once I finally let it go and realized that the Lord really had my best interest in his plan, I forgave. Now I'm happier and try to live everyday to the fullest that I can. . . I want to serve the Lord at Del-Haven because I was greatly blessed while attending Del-Haven as a camper and if I have the chance to give a testimony and to encourage other girls and boys to follow Christ then my summer would have been spent serving Christ.”

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

We always have many people to thank personally just as we continue to thank the Lord for each of them. The work at Del-Haven truly encompasses more than the regular staff and board members and we are appreciative and thankful to each person or group who offers their services, possessions, and prayers.

Crest Bible Church once again has blessed us with a HUGE food shower from collections made during their VBS program.

Plaza Heights Baptist Church gave of their time and talents during the Saturday Work Day before camp. Many tasks were done by this group that were imperative for camp operations before our summer sessions.

Charlie Green from Strasburg Union Church has donated a much needed brush mower for our tractor. This gift is very much appreciated as we need it to keep our trails mowed for hiking, etc.

Heritage Baptist Church continues to bring plenty of Dominoes Pizzas every Wednesday night. What a treat for our campers and staff!

The Water Hole remains a consistent friend of this ministry as they continue in donating all our pool needs. Everybody enjoys swimming and many children have learned to swim for the first time in the camp swimming pool.

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32