"The Gospel According to Luke: For He Will Be Great Before the Lord" Luke 1:13-25

- (Luke 1:13-17) What is true GREATNESS?
 - "But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all" (Mark 10:43-44).
 "The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:11-12).
 - John's *GREATNESS* can be looked at from a few angles:
 - 1) The *GREATNESS* of his calling he was to prepare the way for the Messiah (Luke 1:76).
 - 2) There was a GREATNESS in his humility (Matthew 3:11).
 - 3) There was a *GREATNESS* in his message (Matthew 3:2,8; cf.Matthew 4:17; Acts 26:20).
 - 4) There was a *GREATNESS* in his boldness (Matthew 14:4; cf.Matthew 11:10-11).
- (Luke 1:13-19) The connection between JOY and BELIEF.
 - "The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart...." (Psalm 19:8). "Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors" (Psalm 119:24). "For I find my delight in Your commandments, which I love" (Psalm 119:47). "I have no greater joy than to hear my children are walking in the truth" (3 John 1:4). "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9).
 - Zechariah's JOY and others' JOY:
 - 1) Zecharian and Elizabeth will have *JOY* because they have prayed for a child, possibly for decades.
 - 2) Zechariah and Elizabeth will have *JOY* because their son will prepare the way for their Savior.
 - 3) Others will have *JOY* because of the Messiah coming and His message saving many.
- (Luke 1:20-25) The DISCIPLINE of the Lord.
 - "For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives....but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:6,10b-11)

Announcements:

- ★DONATIONS: Today is the <u>LAST DAY</u> that we are collecting monetary donations for the Christian Union Summer Camps. Each summer our denomination hosts 3 weeks of church camps in Greenfield, Ohio for children ages 9-18. Your monetary donations would help with the cost of purchasing food for these church camps, in order to not increase the price of camp for each child. For more information about the denomination and about the church camps themselves, please see the board on the back table. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is a donation for the Summer Camps.
- ★MEMBERS MEETING: We will be having a Members Meeting <u>TONIGHT</u> immediately following the worship service. This meeting will be to vote on the budget options and the proposed By-Law changes and additions that were presented at the Members Meeting last month. If you are a current church member, please plan to stay for this meeting.
- ★BAPTISM SERVICE: Our next Baptism Service is in two weeks, on Sunday, June 11th. If you are interested in being baptized or have any questions about baptism, please see Pastor Jeremey or one of the other Elders
- ★CHURCH DAY OF PRAYER: Our monthly day of prayer as a church body is *THIS* Wednesday, May 31st. There are specific prayer points below ↓. We ask that you set aside time on that day to pray for the elders, deacons, and ministries of our church body.
- ★FELLOWSHIP DINNER: We are having a Fellowship Dinner NEXT Sunday, June 4th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us.

→ Prayer Points for Day of Prayer (Wednesday, May 31st):

- Pray that we would glorify God in our corporate worship services. Pray that everything we do would be to exalt the glory of our great God.
- Pray that God would give each of us a desire to live holy lives and that we would grow in our zeal for prayer.
- Pray that we grow in our zeal to share the gospel. Pray that God would open our eyes to the opportunities He gives us to share the gospel and pray for boldness as we share the gospel.
- Pray for wisdom and humility for our elders as they lead this church body to the glory of God. Pray for joy and humility for our deacons as they lead in serving this church body to the glory of God. Pray that our zeal would grow for serving one another with a cheerful heart to the glory of our great God.