

Welcome to Calvary Chapel of Hilo

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885 Kilauea Avenue, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Sunday Morning - 9:00 A.M **PHIL. 4:1-4 "CHALLENGES FOR THE CHURCH"**

Next Week – **PHIL. 4:5-9 "HOW TO EXPERIENCE THE PEACE OF GOD"**

Wednesday Bible Study – 9:30 am - 2 Samuel 24

CHRISTIAN JOY

Christian joy is a mood independent of our immediate circumstances. If it were dependent on our surroundings, then, indeed, it would be as uncertain as an unprotected candle burning on a gusty night. One moment the candle burns clear and steady, the next moment the blaze leaps to the very edge of the wick, and affords little or no light. But Christian joy has no relationship to the transient setting of the life, and therefore it is not the victim of the passing day. At one time my conditions arrange themselves like a sunny day in June; a little later they rearrange themselves like a gloomy day in November. One day I am at the wedding; the next day I stand by an open grave. One day, in my ministry, I win ten converts for the Lord; and then, for a long stretch of days, I never win one. Yes, the days are as changeable as the weather, and yet the Christian joy can be persistent. Where lies the secret of its glorious persistency? Here is the secret. "Lo! I am with you all the days." In all the changing days, "He changeth not, neither is weary." He is no fairweather Companion, leaving me when the year grows dark and cold. He does not choose my days of prosperous festival, though not to be found in my days of impoverishment and defeat. He does not show Himself only when I wear a garland, and hide Himself when I wear a crown of thorns. He is with me "all the days"—the prosperous days and the days of adversity; days when the funeral bell is tolling, and days when the wedding bell is ringing. "All the days." The day of life—the day of death—the day of judgment.

Believer's Bible Commentary

DISAGREEMENTS

According to the Associated Press, a Dallas, Texas, man had a disagreement with a bank. His home sat adjacent to a tract of land on which the bank planned to build a new facility. The bank wanted to buy his home and knock it down.

The man said no deal. His property was appraised at \$86,350, and he claimed the bank had offered only \$68,000. The bank claimed it had offered more than that.

Ninety years old, the man had lived in his house for some fifty years. He didn't have to sell his home, and so he decided he wouldn't. The bank wanted to build, and so it decided it would. The result is a new bank building shaped like a horseshoe around the man's home. An automatic teller machine dispenses cash fifteen feet from where he sleeps. The cars of drive-through customers idle in front of his kitchen window.

These two parties may be adjacent to one another, but can scarcely be called neighbors. Those who walk in love do more than coexist; they cooperate.

PEACEMAKERS

One of the indelible images from the Vietnam War is the photograph of a nine-year-old girl named Phan Thi Kim Phuc. During a battle between North and South Vietnamese troops, an American commander ordered South Vietnamese aircraft to drop napalm bombs on her tiny village. Two of her brothers were killed, and she was burned badly. Wearing no clothes, she fled up the road toward the cameraman. Because of the pain her arms are held out sideways, and her mouth is open in a cry of agony.

According to Elaine Sciolino in the *New York Times*, Ms. Kim Phuc suffered third-degree burns over 50 percent of her body, but she lived. She endured fourteen months of painful rehabilitation and scores of skin grafts. "It was so painful to have her wounds washed and dressed that she lost consciousness whenever she was touched." Since then she has married, emigrated to Canada, and become a Christian who hopes someday to attend Bible college. Her burned skin lost sweat and oil glands, and she is still in much pain. Scars stretch up her arms to her chest and back. But despite her past and present suffering, in 1996 she accepted an invitation from several Vietnam veterans groups to join in Veterans Day ceremonies held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where she laid a wreath and spoke words of forgiveness.

"I have suffered a lot from both physical and emotional pain," she told the audience of several thousand people, who greeted her with two standing ovations. "Sometimes I could not breathe. But God saved my life and gave me faith and hope. Even if I could talk face to face with the pilot who dropped the bombs, I would tell him, 'We cannot change history, but we should try to do good things for the present and for the future to promote peace'" Those who suffer the most can be the greatest peacemakers. 750 Engaging Illustrations.