

# Daily View

*"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today'" Hebrews 3:13*

August 24, 2020



*How can you look at a group of our Folsom kids and not smile?? (2009).*

## It's Monday: Smile!

**M**y aunt Ruby was always smiling and that is my enduring memory of her. Just thinking about her makes me smile. And thinking about her also reminds me that being remembered for your smile is a really good thing. She also had an infectious (can I use that word right now?) laugh. Not everyone has that kind of laugh but we can all smile. In my best moments, I'm Ruby-like.

In my lifetime, I have met thousands of people who share my faith in Christ. The ones I remember most fondly are the "aunt-Ruby-like" people; people who made an effort to keep a smile on their face, regardless of their circumstances, and who developed a sense of humor and have learned not to take themselves too seriously.

I struggle to relate to the dour, sour, sad sack, "down-in-the-mouth," way too serious people. No doubt, they are good people. But a sour disposition seems antithetical to what a Christian should be. As serious as the apostle Paul was, at times, I still picture him smiling and laughing, full of the joy he spoke of in his letter to the Philippians.

Paul, who was imprisoned, said, "Rejoice, again I will say, Rejoice!!!" (Philippians 4:4). At least 14 times in that 4-chapter letter, Paul uses a form of the word "joy." He even says that *"even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all"* (2:17). He's saying, *"even if I die, I'll die with joy in my heart."*

There are times, of course, when we need to be deadly serious. There are times when a big smile or laughter is entirely out of place. But those times should be the rare exception, not the rule. Our eyes should sparkle with the knowledge that we are God's children.

Someone said "the eyes are the windows to the soul" This takes on new meaning in these odd times as we greet each other with masks in place. All we see is the eyes. But our eyes say volumes; we can smile with our eyes but our eyes can also reveal our sadness or our discontentment.

You are a Christian, saved by grace and loved by God. So, smile! Be an aunt Ruby to others and they'll never forget you. More importantly, if they are not yet a Christian, they may wonder why you are so full of joy and they may even ask you. If so, you can tell them, "why wouldn't I smile? After all, I am saved by grace and loved by God and I have a huge family who loves me, too."

I'll end with this reminder that God is smiling on us. It comes from Numbers 6:24-26:

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

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