



**Bellefield  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**4001 5th Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

**God Is Most Glorified in  
Us When We Are Most  
Delighted in Him**

Preaching Today—  
Rev. Dr. R. Geoffrey Brown  
(B.A. & Ph.D. from PITT)

Dear BPC friends,  
I recall my visit here  
last March; I was a looky-loo,  
until worship began. Then your  
Bellefield soul for Jesus cap-  
tured my own heart. The music  
was loud, wondrous, rocking,  
rhythmic and penetrating to  
the soul. “Let me come here,” I  
asked the Lord. And tears filled  
my eyes at the hope of it. Now  
I find oddly that we need some  
release together after all, into  
that joyous movement contin-  
ued that I experienced last  
March. Let’s get there together;  
but oh, for the glory of God,  
let’s get there. Freely to His joy.  
In His love & by His grace, DrB

#### 4. Conclusion: The Account Ends with a Dire Warning about the Negative Consequences of Negativity Against Joyous Worshippers

Such a joy never  
came Michal’s way  
after her indictment  
of David’s passion-  
ately glorifying God.



**2 Samuel 6:23**

“And Michal the daugh-  
ter of Saul had no child  
to the day of her  
death.” Michal missed  
seeing the beauty of God.  
But that wasn’t enough.  
With her misdirected pas-  
sions—which should have  
been ignited with a blazing

center for Jesus Christ—  
she then despised the  
Lord’s chosen, took away  
from him the liberty of his  
own joy in Jesus Christ,  
then blew her horns of  
criticism in his ears. The  
negative consequences hit  
her severely. Instead of  
leadership & love, she re-  
ceived isolation & barren-  
ness. Whether David with-  
drew from her or not,  
certainly the hand of our  
sovereign God did not  
grant her any children.

BELLEFIELD  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

SERMON  
MOVES  
@A  
GLANCE

1. In a posi-  
tive con-  
text,  
God’s  
beauty  
makes  
the soul  
dance;
2. In a  
negative  
context,  
God’s  
beauty is  
missed &  
the soul  
sinks;
3. God’s  
grace  
lets the  
positive  
over-  
come  
the nega-  
tive for  
our joy  
in His  
glory.

# Sermon Helps

WORSHIP GOD | OCTOBER 19

## “Dancing with the Stars”— David’s Performance of Praise

**2 Samuel 6:12-23**

It is not inaccurate to say  
“dancing with the stars,”  
because the Bible  
states in *Psalm*  
19:1, “The heav-  
ens declare the  
glory of God, and  
the sky  
above pro-  
claims His  
handi-  
work.” So  
there’s David down below  
on this earth, dancing for  
all he’s worth before the  
beauty of the Lord (6:14),  
and as He is “dancing &

leaping before the  
Lord” (6:16), the silent  
stars above also move to  
the sounds of  
God’s glory, sway-  
ing with His divine  
rhythms disclosed  
in nature, set there  
in the cele-  
stial expanse  
for the sake  
of His great  
Name.



“David danced before the  
Lord with all his might.”

David’s own words in de-  
fending his actions were,  
“I will make merry before  
the Lord” (6:21). So, too,  
the stars dance with him.

## God Gives Us Grace in Jesus Christ

What’s your  
style? Is it exu-  
berant like  
David’s? Or  
maybe he  
comes off a bit  
showy? Maybe  
you’d never  
“dance with all

your might” in  
public before the  
beauty of the  
Lord? Different  
people do differ-  
ent things with  
their joy over  
Jesus’ beauty.  
But oh, whether

quiet & sedate, or  
boisterous & bub-  
bly, oh to be cap-  
tured with the  
vision of Christ’s  
glory! And oh, to  
grant others their  
own style & dance  
in Jesus the Lord.

### 1. God's Beauty Is Seen & the Soul Dances When Our Passions Are Surrounded with Positivity



God alone knows why she dances; we can't read her motives.

**2 Samuel 6: 12-15**  
Simply put: God is passionate, & we are made in His image. *Ipsa facto*, we are passionate people by design—by His design. To

deny this is to go against our souls. So the question becomes how to release your inescapably passionate nature when it's caught with a vision of the divine beauty

and splendor? Baldly, your need is to express your passion. "It's your passion; make it happen"—in the most holy way possible: surround it with positivity & permission.

*"There are some joys that are so great that they are not inside you, but you are inside them."*

### 1a. What David Did with the Positive Expand of His Soul Before the Beauty & Glory of the Lord

Let's note it well: God gives us His Word to *redefine us*; not just for our idle examination, but for our transformation into His joy. Not only do we **need** to engage our passions, but we need desperately to do this the happiest way possible: to become *happified* in Jesus as Jonathan Edwards noted. David does this by rejoicing (12), sacrificing (13), dancing (14), shouting (15), leaping (16), sharing (19) & making merry (21).

### 2. God's Beauty Is Missed & the Soul Sinks When Our Passions Are Surrounded with Negativity

**2 Samuel 6:16, 20** It's got to be asked: *what if Michal would have joined David in his delight over God's beauty, instead of criticizing him & despising him in her heart (16)?* She missed the moment. The growth in glory that hit David was truncated within her by the paucity of her soul. Her own negativity attributed to David motives that were far, far from his heart. So sad, so sad.

Michal despised David's joy. Ever been there?



### 2a. Oh, the Perils of Attributing Negative Motives to Another...

While David in vs. 18 wrapped in positive passions "blessed the people in the Name of the Lord of hosts," Michal was preparing her embittered sarcasm



on the erroneous assumption that she could read David's soul. She indicted his motives, calling him

She was negative! one of the "vulgar fellows" who "shamelessly uncovers himself." Wisely, David did not capitulate to the false accusations, but stood strong.

*"The Big Question for us today is — let us ask it over & over— 'Will we make merry before the Lord?—& allow others to do so, also?'"*

### 3. God's Grace within Us Empowers Our Passions to Be Immersed in a Positivity that Disperses the Negative

**2 Samuel 6:21-23**  
Cry out for grace! For it's God's grace that lets us stand in Jesus Christ, allows us to see & savor the beauty of our Savior—and outwardly to delight over

His glory even when the criticisms flow & hurt. Something greater is at stake than our sinful withdrawal and self-protection at that point. David says, "it was before the **Lord**" (21).

### 3a. A God-Entranced Vision of Life Perceives the Beauty of the Lord

What a mission given us from the Word of God: *To liberate Christian captives from the duty-bound lethargy of worship; to encourage them to nurture their passions on the beauty and glory of Jesus Christ—to dance with all their might!* Who said we can't? God? No, it's just the opposite on the pages of His holy Word, from the self-revelation of His divine disclosure telling us what He's about, and what people are about who encounter Him as the source of truest joy possible.



**And free yourself & others, too, for the glory of God!**