

Pure Joy

“A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come...” (John 16:21).

Labor pains can be very intense. Even with modern medicines that lessen it, it is still a painful process. Our daughter-in-law, Olivia, experienced some intense pain early this morning (as the meds wore off) in giving birth to a beautiful boy. Olivia, you can blame that pain on Eve.

Pain in childbirth was a consequence of the son of Eve and Adam. As punishment for her sin, the Lord God said to Eve: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children”(Genesis 3:16).

But there is something that eclipses the pain of childbirth. Observe the rest of Jesus’ statement in John 16:21 — “A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.” Olivia and her extended family are all experiencing that joy.

But we can’t place all the blame for the pain on Adam and Eve, “for all [of us] have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). But here is the good news that brings great joy: Jesus the Christ, the sinless Son of God, paid the price for our sins. He suffered agony - excruciating (literally “out of the cross”) pain as He died on the cross for our sins (1 Peter 2:24). He did that for us so that we can be born again - washed from our sins by His blood and added to His family.

God will give the new birth and eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of his Word (1 John 1:7-9).

What joy there is when a child is born into the world!

What joy there is in heaven and earth when a person is born again into the family of God!

--David A. Sargent

P.S. Please help us welcome Whitman Clark Sargent, born into this world on May 14, 2026, to Olivia and JD Sargent.