

Text: Various

Title: Lord's Table: The Joy of Salvation

Truth: The people of God can have not only assurance of salvation, but JOY!

Date/Location: Sunday September 6, 2020 at FBC

Introduction

Last month in part of our message we discussed the various emotions that we experience as part of the Christian faith. One of those emotions is joy.

I sense in our society at large we have had a deficit of joy in the normal human sense, because of all the doom and gloom that is publicized 24x7. The fact is that if you take in a lot of that stuff, it *will* affect how you think and feel. I'm concerned as your pastor that many of you are taking in a bunch of bad news all the time, if not outright garbage, propaganda, deceit, stuff mis-interpreted by unbelieving minds, and so on. Your joy is being attacked and eroded every single day.

But for the Christian, we can have a deep-seated kind of **joy/happiness** despite the things going on around us. Our joy is not the same as the world's happiness. It is a feeling associated with peace and tranquility, knowing that we are—in Christ—right with God. It is tied to **thanksgiving** for what God has done for us and **humility** that God has been so good to sinners like ourselves.

I. Salvation is More than Forgiveness

- A. We touched on joy when we looked at the blessings of forgiveness. What joy comes when the burden of sin is removed from your mind and soul! But there is so much more to be joyful about than just forgiveness.
- B. But did you know that salvation is much bigger than just forgiveness? God not only stops holding your sin and its guilt against you—that's forgiveness.
- C. He also:
 - constitutes you are a righteous person (Rom 3:22),
 - and His Spirit begins to dwell in you (Rom 8:9),
 - and He makes you, over time, to be like Christ (Rom 8:29),
 - and He causes you to grow in holiness (Rom 6:13),
 - and He guarantees your future deliverance from all sin (Eph 1:14),
 - and He gives you eternal life (John 10:28),
 - and He reconciles you to Himself (Rom 5:10),
 - and He redeems your soul from slavery to sin (John 8:33-34),

- and He promises to resurrect you from the dead (1 Thess. 4:16),
- and He grants you an inheritance with Him (Acts 26:18),
- and He helps you to love your neighbor as yourself (John 13:35),
- and He reserves a place in His kingdom for you (John 3:3, 5)

D. Do you have those things in your life? Do you rejoice in them?

II. Examples of Joy in Salvation

1 Sam. 2:1 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn [a symbol of strength] is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, because I **rejoice** in Your **salvation**.

Ps. 13:5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall **rejoice** in Your **salvation**.

Ps. 20:5 We will **rejoice** in your **salvation**, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

Psalm 21:1 The king shall have **joy** in Your strength, O LORD; and in Your **salvation** how greatly shall he **rejoice**!

Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the **joy** of Your **salvation**, and uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.

Ps. 132:16 Regarding God taking up his dwelling place in Zion... I will also clothe her priests with **salvation**, and her saints shall shout aloud for **joy**.

Isa. 12:1-3 And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God *is* my **salvation**, I will trust and not be afraid; `For YAH, the LORD, *is* my strength and song; He also has become my **salvation**.'" Therefore with **joy** you will draw water From the wells of **salvation**.

Exodus 15:2 The LORD is my **strength and song**, And He has become my **salvation**; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

Isa. 25:6 ESV On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; awe have waited for him, that he might

save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and **rejoice** in his **salvation**."

Isa. 61:10 I will greatly **rejoice** in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of **salvation**, He has covered me with the robe of **righteousness**, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Hab. 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will **joy** in the God of my **salvation**.

Zech. 9:9 **Rejoice** greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having **salvation**, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Psa. 118:15 The voice of **rejoicing** and **salvation** is in the tents of the righteous; The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

Psa. 70:4 Let all those who seek You **rejoice** and be glad in You; And let those who love Your **salvation** say continually, "Let God be magnified!"

III. What if I Do not have that Joy?

A. If you know that kind of happiness that Scripture talks about, then you are doing well spiritually. Such joy is evidence that you truly know Christ. But if you are perennially joyless, it may just be that you do not know Christ in truth.

B. Or, what if you have one of those all-too-common recurrent lapses of joy, of whatever length it may be? What if you fall into depression for a longish period of time? What is going on?

C. Causes of lack of joy.

1. Sin. David had no joy while he sinned and tried to hide his sin (Psalm 32:3-4, 51:3, 8).
2. Focus on the wrong things, like on yourself. Remember, when you look into your own heart, you won't find beautiful flowers and stuff like that. You will find a heart of darkness (Jer. 17:9).
3. Focus on the wrong things, like the affairs of men in the world. Focusing on the news will get most anyone depressed within 5 minutes if not less!
4. Focus on wrong things, like the bad things that have happened to you in the past. Are you thinking on things above, or on things down here that have gone wrong? Are you moving ahead, or backward?
5. Physical tiredness or health problems are another possibility.

6. Grief or regret.

D. Solutions to a lack of joy. Reverse the above conditions, by God's grace.

1. Take care of yourself. Get the proper nutrition, exercise, sleep, etc. Be regular about these matters. Don't let your schedule swing wildly from day to day. Get a routine going. Plan a little bit instead of just floating along. Change the things that you are doing. Drop some things, or replace some things with others. Focus on what God wants you to do, not what your flesh tells you to do.
2. Focus on Christ, His Word, His people instead on the things of the world or past hurts. Believe in God that He can guide you through all of your problems. Rest in God.
3. Focus on others instead of on yourself. Serve someone else today, and then plan to do it again tomorrow.
4. Confess sin. Have a heart ready to forgive others so that bitterness does not get the better of you and kill your joy. Those things, by the way, are important for your participation at the Lord's Table.
5. Remember all that God has done for you—what we mentioned above about salvation being more than forgiveness. Remember what God is doing and will do for you as well.
6. Try your best to ask God's help to turn your grief and regret over to Him. He can help you with it.

Conclusion

These practical steps will help you to recover the joy of salvation.

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