

The reason why many poor souls have so little heat of joy in their hearts, is that they have so little light of the Gospel knowledge in their mind. The further a soul stands from the light of truth, the further he must needs be from the heat of comfort.

William Gurnall

Take a saint, and put him into any condition, and he knows how to rejoice in the Lord.

Walter Cradock

GADSBY'S CATECHISM

by William Gadsby (about 1800)

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

Question XX. Did all mankind fall in Adam's transgression?

Answer. All mankind, descending from Adam by ordinary generation lay in his loins, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression.

1 Kin. 8.46; Ecc. 7.20; Rom. 3.9-19, 23 & 5.12, 19; 1 Cor. 15. 21-22.

Question XXI. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

Answer. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

Gen. 3. 7-24; Jer. 17.9; Rom. 3.10-12 & 5.12 & 8.22.

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

55 Avenue A

P. O. Box 628

Richwood, WV 26261

B. H. Seacrist, Jr., Pastor

Phone 304 846 6406

Email: branthsi@msn.com

Website: www.riversidebaptistchurchwv.com

WXTH-LP 101.7 FM – In Richwood

Services:

Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

Volume 9, No. 3

January 17, 2016

UNDAUNTED JOY

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:17-18

Like so many of the things given us in our new life in Christ, joy may be difficult to define. We could begin with a dictionary definition one of which is: “feelings of great happiness or pleasure, especially of an elevated or spiritual kind.” Webster’s 1828 dictionary gives the following: “The passion or emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good, good fortune, the gratification of desire or some good possessed, or by a rational prospect of possessing what we love or desire...” It would seem that any of these things finds an apt application in a believer’s contemplation of his Lord. In the second of these definitions terms such as acquisition, expectation and gratification strongly identify with salvation possessed, promises believed and the “patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Two things quickly come to mind as we reflect on the fact that true joy is undaunted. First, is the profound truth that it is named as “fruit of the Spirit” and so incorporated into the believing experience along with love and peace. Galatians 5:22. The second is that it identifies with the joy of our Lord which remained in view though all the ordeal of the cross. It was the joy that was set before Him that was His objective. It only follows that we should understand this joy we possess as an object of redemption; it is the purchase of blood. It is the appropriate reaction to believers’ understanding of the hope of salvation and the assurance given us in

knowing Christ. Words will fail at attempts at description. However, although we may not be able to fully describe it we know it when we have it in that Christ is most gloriously at the center of it all.

The prophet here named multiple reasons to despair. The scene is one of utter failure of those things wherein prosperity is indicated. He seems to go beyond the “summer fruit” of Micah and describes conditions of utter devastation. Obviously such devastation offers no reason for joy to either the sight or the prospects of those affected. Dwelling in the land of plenty where food is abundant we might have trouble putting ourselves in the place of people suffering in this way. It is obvious that Habakkuk has more in mind here than mere crop failure and the ensuing famine. He appeals to the needs of personal experience with the Lord.

Isaiah considered a similar situation as he wrote: *Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. Isaiah 50:10.* Both Isaiah and Habukkuk understood circumstances with no hope apart from divine intervention. Perhaps of greater importance is to see that the conditions are not a mere stroke of “bad luck.” These conditions were a matter of divine judgment.

As we look about us today there is a distinct parallel to the conditions described. We see a

nation given over to the conditions of Spiritual famine. In a land where God should be glorified in view of past blessedness people are content to feed upon the husks of sin and experience superficial joy at the best. They are given over to idolatry of the worst sorts and strive against anything that would seem to challenge their pursuits of fleshly gratification and pride. Of course, the warnings as to the perverted forms of religion and morality are being issued forth from faithful preachers but they are being summarily shouted down by the common man and from the seats of government.

While we may lament the fact that it seems that God, as a matter of judgment, has given them up, true joy is unchanged. That is because the source and the object of true joy is unchanged and they are one and the same – “the God of our salvation.” Where there is the appearance of joy relative to this world we must take care that it does not detract from the joy that is centered in our Blessed Lord. Our joy in Him is enhanced as we note the awful conditions and prospects of the faithless and unbelieving among us. To rejoice in the Lord is to behold Him in the glory of His person, the dignity of His offices (prophet, priest and King) and the wonderful success of His every

endeavor. It is to sing of Him and to declare it to all. It is to move with full satisfaction at all that His had done. *As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness. Psalms 17:15.* It is to consider the benefits of His relationship with us as Father, husband, friend and brother. It is to be sensitive to the great love He has bestowed upon us.

We joy in “the God of my salvation” as we consider the environment of our heavenly citizenship wherein the whole atmosphere evidences the sweetness of His presence. It is the contemplation of new mercies day by day. It is a growth in grace and knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. It is the blessedness wherein we are able to sing, “He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own.” All of these things are sweetly delivered to us by the operations of Him, the Holy Spirit wherein the grace of Christ is applied and so we are enabled to “joy in our God.”

May we truly sing with Newton of old, “But when I am happy in Him, December’s as pleasant as May.” Undaunted Joy is the precious gift of grace and the blessed fruit of the Spirit and as such redounds to the glory of our God.
bhs

EXPERIENCE—

Teaching the Value of Grace IN the olden time when the government of England had resolved to build a wooden bridge over the Thames at Westminster, after they had driven a hundred and forty piles into the river, there occurred one of the most severe frosts in the memory of man, by means of which the piles were torn away from their strong fastenings, and many of them snapped in two. The apparent evil in this case was a great good; it led the commissioners to reconsider their purpose, and a substantial bridge of stone was erected. How well it is when the fleshly reformations of unregenerate men are broken to pieces, if thus they are led to fly to the Lord Jesus, and in the strength of his Spirit are brought to build solidly for eternity. Lord, if thou sufferest my resolves and hopes to be carried away by temptations and the force of my corruptions, grant that this blessed calamity may drive me to depend wholly on thy grace, which cannot fail me.

C. H. Spurgeon

On Prayer – Hudson Taylor in a letter to his Sister

Oh, my dear Sister, it is a wonderful thing to be really one with a risen and exalted Saviour, to be a member of Christ! Think what it involves. Can Christ be rich and I poor? Can your right hand be rich and your left poor? or your head be well fed while your body starves? Again, think of its bearing on prayer. Could a bank clerk say to a customer, "It was only your hand, not you that wrote that check"; or "I can not pay this sum to your hand, but only to yourself"? No more can your prayers or mine be discredited if offered in the name of Jesus (i.e., not for the sake of Jesus merely, but on the ground that we are His, His members) so long as we keep within the limits of Christ's credit - a tolerably wide limit! If we ask for anything unscriptural, or not in accordance with the will of God, Christ Himself could not do that. But "if we ask any thing according to his will ... we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."



Justification by Faith

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."—Romans 5:10

I am not saved by believing; I realize I am saved by believing. It is not repentance that saves me, repentance is the sign that I realize what God has done in Christ Jesus. the danger is to put the emphasis on the effect instead of on the cause. It is my obedience that puts me right with God, my consecration. Never! I am put right with God because prior to all, Christ died. When I turn to God and by belief accept what God reveals I can accept, instantly the stupendous Atonement of Jesus Christ rushes me into a right relationship with God; and by the supernatural miracle of God's grace I stand justified, not because I am sorry for my sin, not because I have repented, but because of what Jesus has done. the Spirit of God brings it with a breaking, all—over light, and I know, though I do not know how, that I am saved. The salvation of God does not stand on human logic, it stands on the sacrificial Death of Jesus. We can be born again because of the Atonement of Our Lord. Sinful men and women can be changed into new creatures, not by their repentance or their belief, but by the marvellous work of God in Christ Jesus which is prior to all experience. the impregnable safety of justification and sanctification is God Himself. We have not to work out these things ourselves; they have been worked out by the Atonement. the supernatural becomes natural by the miracle of God; there is the realization of what Jesus Christ has already done—"It is finished."
Oswald Chambers



God takes a safe course with His children, that they may not be condemned with the world, He permits the world to condemn them, that they may not love the world, the world hates them.... —John Trapp

"When we learn to lean back in God's sovereignty, we can experience great inner peace. Our troubles may not change, our pain may not diminish, and our loss may not be restored. But the power of those things to harm us is broken as we rest in the fact that God is in control." ~Joni E. Tada