

“Good Tidings of Great Joy!” Psalm 98; Luke 2:10-11

<sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10–11

At Christmas time one of my favorite songs is “Joy to the World!” Based on Psalm 98 and Luke 2 it takes seriously the Psalm’s sweet commands, expressed in its forth verse,

<sup>4</sup> Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. Psalm 98:4

And connects that Psalm with Luke 2’s angel announcement - I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. Luke 2:10 B

Again, in verse :6 Psalm 98 tells us –

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of a horn; Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.

And in verse :8

Let the rivers clap *their* hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD,

You might ask, what is SO GREAT about the JOY Jesus brings?

I. It is not just a Christmas joy, it is an everyday, all the time joy-

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)

Erma Bombeck once said, “There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child” ... I think she was ALMOST CORRECT, but horribly WRONG! – Better to say--- “There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning (or any morning) and not be a child of God ” We are not waiting for Santa, who does not exist to come, but for Christ, Who came on Christmas day, is with us now, and will come again!

1. We rejoice “in the Lord” because in the Lord we have reason to rejoice-

A. He is our Savior- Luke 2:11

He saves us from sin-

<sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

- We NEED such a Savior, because- <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, ... Romans 6:23 A

- And death without a Savior leads to judgment, even Hell’s fires-

<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, Hebrews 9:27

<sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: Matthew 25:41

B. Jesus is not only are Savior, but He is also the Christ, Prophet, Priest and King  
The salvation He brings not only SAVES us from sin and its penalties: death & Hell, but He as Christ restores us in the image of God in knowledge, righteousness and holiness:  
<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Colossians 3:10

<sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:24

C. As our LORD also, He rules our lives in a way that glorifies God, we are under His sweet and righteous governess –

<sup>14</sup> that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing, <sup>15</sup> which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 1 Timothy 6:14–15

2. Notice in 1 Timothy 6:15 Jesus is the only Potentate, He is the only One Who can gain for us true salvation and joy-

<sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

II. The joy we have in Jesus is not just an “always” joy, but it is an every situation “joy” -

<sup>6</sup> In this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with **joy inexpressible and full of glory**, <sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. 1 Peter 1:6–9

1. Various trials verse :6 is probably persecution

2. They had “joy” though **tested by fire** :7

3. Joy beyond words, **inexpressible and full of glory** - :8

A. This joy we find in persecuted churches

B. We see this joy recorded in Scripture, in Paul & Silas-

<sup>23</sup> **And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. Acts 16:23–26**

C. I have seen it in people I have known, you maybe have known, David Coker, Rynthia Jackson!

D. This JOY shines and is glorious -

<sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with **joy inexpressible and full of glory**,



III. One of the keys to this great “joy” is keeping Jesus’ commands-

<sup>10</sup> **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.** <sup>11</sup> **“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:10–11 (NKJV)**

1. It is best to trust and obey -

“When we walk with the Lord, In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey. Refrain: Trust and obey! For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey. Not a shadow can rise, Not a cloud in the skies, But His smile quickly drives it away; Not a doubt nor a fear, Not a sigh nor a tear, Can abide while we trust and obey. Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay; Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown nor a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey. But we never can prove The delights of His love Until all on the altar we lay; For the favor He shows, And the joy He bestows, Are for those who will trust and obey. Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His side in the way; What He says we will do, Where He sends we will go— Never fear, only trust and obey!” John Sammis

2. However, EVEN when we break His commands, the “joy” is only restored by His forgiveness and grace, when we confess and repent –

<sup>9</sup> **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9**

<sup>5</sup> **and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own **blood**, Revelation 1:5**

### Psalm 32 A Psalm of David. A Contemplation.

A Contemplation means something to THINK ABOUT, Mediate On...

About Psalm 32, please count it your Pastor’s Gift to You!

Actually, a Gift from God above, because of Christ’s MERCY, because of God’s LOVE!

★★★ **This Psalm 32 starts with a general statement about the blessedness of being forgiven -**

<sup>1</sup> **Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.**

★★★ **The Psalm continues with David’s description of his sad state before asking for forgiveness -**

<sup>3</sup> **When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.**

Selah

★★★ **David speaks / sings about his finally confessing -**

<sup>5</sup> **I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah**

★★★ **David warns against procrastination (in regards to confessing & repenting)**

<sup>6</sup> **For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. <sup>7</sup> You *are* my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.**

Selah

★★★ **This warning continues, so don’t be unteachable, don’t be stubborn or rebellious, like a bucking bronco or a stubborn mule, holding onto not confessing or repenting of sin-**

<sup>8</sup> **I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.**

<sup>9</sup> **Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. <sup>10</sup> Many sorrows shall be to the wicked;**

★★★ **Trust in God find mercy and rejoice ...**

**But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. <sup>11</sup> Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

*Arnold A. Brevick*