



REJOICE IN GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION

Sunday, December 4, 2022

Psalm 98:1-2

Life can be hard and painful. Just this week we have experienced great grief in our church family. On Thursday, I received a prayer request that a pastor's son in New England died from an overdose. The father conducted his son's funeral just a few days ago. In the face of such tragedy and sadness, how do we sing "Joy to the World?" Do we simply ignore the pain around us and live in our personal bubble until it bursts? The answer, of course, is a resounding no! Joy is both a gift of God and a response to the gifts of God. Joy is not merely based on our circumstances.

*For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime;
Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.*
Psalm 30:5 (NASB95)

Psalm 98 call us to "sing a new song" to the Lord. However, this song of joy is not based on circumstances, but rather on God's gift of salvation. The psalmist found God's gift of salvation to be a source of great joy.

(Psalm 96:1; Isaiah 55:12; Revelation 5:9)

KEY THOUGHT: God's gift of salvation is a source of great joy!

You can sing with joy when you remember...

- 1. God has done wonderful things!** (Jeremiah 32:27; Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:29-37)
- 2. Salvation is completely a work of the Lord!** (Isaiah 52:10, Isaiah 53:5,7; Luke 1:31-33, 2:10-14, Matthew 1:21-23, Isaiah 9:6-7, Ephesians 2:4-7, Hebrews 2:14, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58)
- 3. Salvation is knowable and visible!** (John 14:8-10; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:20-21)
- 4. Salvation is available for all who believe!** (Genesis 12:2-3; John 3:16; Romans 1:16)