

Joy Unspeakable

B. W. Cheney

Friend, are you enjoying life as God intended for everyone of His creation? Or is life full of heartaches, disappointments, failures and sadness? Do you know what it means to have joy unspeakable and full of glory? Or has life become unbearable, senseless and just plain hopeless as far as you are concerned? If life has become a burden for you and there seems to be trouble on every hand, then I have wonderful, glorious news for you.

We hear the world (unsaved people) talking about all the fun they have. We hear and see them running from one kind of entertainment to another looking for something that will give them satisfaction deep down in their souls. After man has tried everything on this earth to give him peace of mind and heart, without God he is still unhappy and a most miserable creature.

Man was never created to live apart from his Creator. God created man that He might have fellowship with him. When God created Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:27) He blessed them and gave them dominion over all the earth and

everything that was upon it. But when they partook of the forbidden fruit which God told them not to eat of, they disobeyed God, became sinners, and died spiritually. This is why Romans 3:23 tells us, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Yes, every person has been created by God and He desires all to love and worship Him.

You may be the type of person that would like to do what is right, but cannot find the way. You may have sinful habits, such as drinking, smoking, cursing, lying, cheating, and others, and would give anything to be free from such things but are still bound by them. If this is your life, dear friend, won't you open your mind and heart to what you are reading? Will you stop and consider for a moment where you are heading? Will you give it some thought that some day you are going to die? The writer of the Book of Hebrews puts it this way. Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." So you see, beloved, everyone of us has an appointment with death, and everyone of us will meet Jesus

Christ at the Judgment bar of God. (See Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10.)

When King David committed sin with a woman by the name of Bathsheba, he lost favor with God and had condemnation upon his soul. He cried out in Psalm 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Verse 12 says, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." Even though David was the reigning king of Israel, when he lost his joy he was a most miserable man, and man is still the same today. You may have much money in the bank, own several homes, have all types of stocks and bonds, but, friend, if you are not a child of God walking in all the light you have, you do not have real God-sent joy.

You may have contentment in having a nice wife or a good husband. You may have satisfaction in raising obedient children and having attained certain goals in this life, but this is not the real joy the Bible speaks of. Those things are good when they are kept in their proper place, but they will never take the place

of Jesus Christ and His wonderful love.

The Prophet Habakkuk had this to say concerning his joy in God. Habakkuk 3:17-18 states: "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."

Here was a man that had God deep down in his soul. When things were looking very bad from the natural standpoint, he had something that lifted him up and beyond his present surroundings, and he was still able to retain his joy that came from trusting in God.

Wherever you find a people serving God, you will find a joyful people. Please never, confuse God-sent joy with foolish jesting and worldly fun, because the two are not the same. Fun is something anyone can have, even a drinking sinner can have fun when he is half drunk, but true joy is meant only for the children of God and they are the only ones that possess it. The Bible tells us of

a time in Acts the 8th Chapter when Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto the people. The people gave heed unto what Philip was preaching. He cast out devils and many were healed through the name of Jesus, and the Bible says in verse 8, "And there was great joy in that city." Yes, beloved, when Jesus Christ comes into a person's heart and he knows he has been forgiven of all sins, this is what brings true joy.

You may be wondering, can a person really have peace of mind and real God-sent joy by just humbling himself before God, admitting he is a poor lost sinner, and trusting in the blood of God's dear Son, Jesus Christ, to take away all his sins? Yes, beloved, that is just what will take place, if you will repent, confess your sins to God, and receive Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. Remember that for anyone to be able to get saved (or receive salvation), he must come to God with an honest heart, and he also must have godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Dear friend, God does not want to

see anyone living in sin and misery, nor does He want to see anyone leave this life unprepared to meet Him at the Judgment Day. That is why He has provided a way that you and I can live a joyful, righteous, godly life here in this present time (Titus 2:12). Then, when we leave this life, we can spend the ceaseless ages of eternity with Him. Praise the Lord!

God's great plan to redeem mankind from sin started long before the world came into existence. The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 1:18-20: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

Yes, sinner friend, God wants all people everywhere to be saved, and to have His ever lasting joy deep in their soul. John 3:16-17 tells us how much God really loves you and me: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only

begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

It is very sad to see people living for the pleasures of this time world, which cannot give lasting joy and happiness. Then when they come near to the end of this life (not realizing they have been robbed by the devil) are lost and on their way to a devil's hell where there is no joy, no peace, and no happiness; only pain and torment forever and ever (Luke 16:19-31).

Remember, friend, you do not have to live without joy in your soul, neither do you have to be lost, living a life of sin. So if you should die after reading this message and go to hell, it will be your own choosing.

In closing I refer you to a few simple Scriptures that will lead you to God's plan of salvation. First of all, you must admit that you are a lost sinner (Romans 3:23). Then, you should know the penalty for sin is death, or separation from

God (Romans 6:23). Then if you will come to God with godly sorrow and ask Him to forgive you of all your sins, and believe Jesus Christ shed His blood for your sins, God will save you (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14).

God tells us in Romans 10:9-10, 13: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

We have these precious words from Jesus Himself, which should stir many hearts and increase everyone's faith, in John 6:37-38: "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

May God help many souls find true peace and joy by receiving Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives. By this the

Kingdom of God will be enlarged. And may you, my friend, experience what it means to have joy unspeakable and full of glory.

**Church of God, God's Acres
675 N. Cedar Street
Newark, OH 43055 USA**

www.church-of-god-online.com

