

Blog 49-Joy

Joy to the world, the Lord has come

Let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns

Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding **joy**

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Joy to the World was written in 1719 by Isaac Watts . Watts was a Methodist Minister who wrote the song as lyrical adaptation of Psalm 98.

Psa 98:1 A Psalm. O sing to Jehovah a new song; for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have saved for Him.

Psa 98:2 Jehovah has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has unveiled to the eyes of the nations.

Psa 98:3 He has remembered His mercy and His truth toward the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of Jehovah.

Psa 98:4 Make a **joyful** noise to Jehovah, all the earth; breakout, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Psa 98:5 Sing to Jehovah with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

Psa 98:6 With trumpets and sound of a horn make a **joyful** noise before Jehovah, the King.

Psa 98:7 Let the sea roar, and the fullness of it; the world, and those who live in it.

Psa 98:8 Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be **joyful** together

Psa 98:9 before Jehovah; for He comes to judge the earth; with righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples in uprightness.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, JOY, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

An abridged commentary by M. Henry, 330 years ago.

“Psa 98:1. God could create without restraint, but before He could redeem, He had to quell the resistance of evil and to overcome the prince of this world.

The “Hallelujah Chorus” of Psa 98:4-9 well befits the triumph of Christ. Too long has nature groaned and travailed, like an imprisoned captive; but she shall have her rebirth. When Jesus is King, seas and floods, mountains and hills, are filled with music. Be optimistic. Eat your meat with gladness and singleness of heart. *You are on the winning and singing side.*”

As a Man of God, What is your declaration and hope about Jesus during this season??

JOY means:

Greek: *cheerfulness*, that is, calm *delight*: - gladness

Or: *exultation*; specifically *welcome*: - gladness, (exceeding) joy.

English: the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; keen pleasure; elation

A source or cause of keen pleasure or delight; something or someone greatly valued or appreciated.

The expression or display of glad feeling; festive gaiety.

When I sense the season and listen to the music, I am elated but more and more Christ is being removed from our time. There is still in some cases where we exult in family time, and some football, and gifts and bonuses. These are not bad but where is Christ.

Is your season going to be JOYful because God’s son has come and set us right with **God for** eternity or just worldly fun?

How did the following characters respond to the first Christmas? Were they JOYful and what was their JOY?

1. Joseph
2. Mary
3. Elizabeth
4. The Inn Keeper
5. The Shepherds
6. The Wisemen
7. Herod
8. Anna
9. Simeon

What was their Joy?

1. Joseph taking a pre-marriage impregnated woman as a wife?
Leaving his business and going to Bethlehem? Running to Egypt for their safety?
2. Mary having the shame of pregnancy and not married?
3. Elizabeth having John jump in her womb on proximity to Jesus?
4. The innkeeper, a full house?
5. The Sheppard's leaving their flock and risking the whole investment?
6. The Wisemen, leaving their home where they were important, giving their net worth away, and defying the king of Israel.
7. Herod-holding on to power
8. Anna and Simeon waiting out their life on the promise.

In this study I was encouraged by a friend that said my JOY will be determined by my **hope**. All above were in need and looked for a savior, a fulfillment of prophesy-their **hope**. When I focus on my **hope** what Jesus does for me this season, that is my JOY!

I think it is ok to enjoy the trappings of Christmas, but we need to refresh our **hope** in the risen Lord and to a coming again Savior, Jesus.

Your **hope** in Jesus will determine the quality and lasting nature of your JOY.

How will you and yours have your JOY-**hope** this Christmas?

Some possibilities:

1. Go to Church on Christmas Eve-give thanks
2. Have the family read the Birth Story together-give thanks
3. Review the people in the Jesus birth story with family or friends and say how you would have handled their circumstance
4. Help some needy family during this time-give thanks
5. Go to a neighborhood or family party
6. Watch football games

What is your **hope** this Christmas?

When God started to redeem the planet earth, Satan, his major fallen Angel corrupted Eve-Adam. The planet has stayed corrupted. God's plan to gain salvation has always been sacrifice. The spilling of Blood. But where is the perfect sacrifice? This is when Jesus,

God's perfect son gave up His throne in Heaven and came to earth to fulfill that terrible role (*Phil 2:5-11*).

Review this prayer by Jesus just before the cross.

Joh 17:4 "I have glorified You upon the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

Joh 17:5 And now Father, glorify Me with Yourself with the glory which I had with You before the world was "

For Jesus to come to the earth, He had to give up the throne next to God.

What was His **hope** in this prayer? What is yours?

These blogs are an attempt to articulate key biblical issues of our day so that we can

1. Learn and understand the propositions of the Bible concerning our life
2. We can apply the truth in our life in the sanctification process
3. Contend/defend against heresy or apostasy.
4. We can draw closer to God

Thanks to Mr. Bob Currier, we have a Web site for the blog. The address is r122conference.org

1. No password is required
2. You may print any document.

I hope these bless you....Gayle