

LIVING WITH 'COMPLETE' HOPE!



INTRO:

Hebrews 6:18-19 (Read)

I. What does Easter really mean? The reason to celebrate is that God was manifest in the flesh. He lives victorious forever.

II. But what are the right attitudes about HIS resurrection?

Psalm 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Here are some "Rules for Chocolate." Chocolate is something people tend to get revved-up about.

- a. If you have melted chocolate all over your hands, you're eating it too slowly.
- b. Chocolate covered raisins, cherries, orange slices, & strawberries all count as fruit, so eat as many as you want.
- c. The problem: How to get 2 pounds of chocolate home from the store in a hot car. Solution: Eat it in the parking lot.
- d. Diet tip: Eat a chocolate bar before each meal. It will take the edge off your appetite and you will eat less.
- e. A nice box of chocolates can provide your total daily intake of calories in one place. Isn't that handy?
- f. If you cannot eat all the chocolate, it will keep. Freeze it. But if you cannot eat all the chocolate, what's wrong with you?
- g. If calories are an issue, store your chocolate on top of the fridge. Calories are afraid of heights, and they will jump out of the chocolate to protect themselves.

Chocolate may give you a taste of sweetness and charge of energy, but resurrecting power lives only in Jesus Christ.

III. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4).

It would go without saying that our world is filled with much confusion. There is no lift of artificial intervention strong enough to give the energy needed to face death, hell, and the grave and triumph over them.

IV. Now is the time to be excited and delighted about God's power and presence.

- a. Please note that "delight" is found in the middle of a progression from "fret" to "rest" ("fret

not, trust, delight, commit, rest").

Psalms 37

Verse 1 - *Fret not thyself because of evildoers* - this is when we notice what others possess, and we comment, "That's unfair! After all, see how wicked they are! Why are they so well off and I, a faithful Christian, have to suffer such poverty and misery!" Let's just not go there.

Verse 3 - *Trust in the LORD, and do good*—worry is best replaced with trust.

Verse 4 - *Delight thyself in the LORD*—the key to everything before and after.

Verse 5 - *Commit thy way unto the LORD*—making a lifetime lifestyle out of it.

Verse 7 - *Rest in the LORD*, and wait patiently for him—realizing real relaxation.

V. What does it mean to "delight"? The word in Hebrew means "to be happy about, take exquisite delight in something."

- a. Too many have taken the position that we are powerless to do anything about the enemy that is against us.

We do not accept the Theory of Determinism which would leave people with the notion that we are fatalistically involved with life. We do have the right to choose.

VI. Some delight in chocolate, but soon discover that it is not all that good for them, so they make a strong effort to "re-condition" themselves. In time they may delight in yogurt.

- a. The psalmist declares plainly that "God is Good," that we can "taste" his "Goodness" for ourselves. That he will be there to strengthen us in our time of need.

VII. What is the outcome of delighting in God? "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psalm 37:4).

VIII. God never takes our confidence in Him as a matter of something common. Delighting in God and trusting in His power give privilege to our lives to be lived in hope—hope that we have as an anchor of the soul.

"That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, **we might have a strong consolation**, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the **hope** set before us: Which **hope** we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil" (KJV Hebrews 6:18).

IX. GOD IS A GOD OF COMPLETION

- a. I am reminded of the man who completed a project in one area during the time he was remodeling his house. Later he told how there were times in what appeared to be such an overwhelming task that he would go and stand in the room that was completed and gain some sense of satisfaction and assurance from what he saw.
- b. He said it made him realize that if he could finish this much he was capable of finishing the rest.
- c. That if this much good had been done more good was to follow.
- d. He tasted again the hope that one of these days the hammer would be put away for the last time. The table-saw's scream would fall silent, and what he had started would be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Great assurance comes in the confidence that something has been finished or that it is going to be finished.

X. COMPLETE IN HIM "And ye are **complete in him**, which is the head of all principality and power" (Colossians 2:10).

- a. GOD HAS NEVER BEEN SURPRISED,
- b. GOD HAS NEVER NEEDED AN "UPDATE,"
- c. GOD HAS NEVER BEEN OUT OF SYNC,

- d. GOD IS NOT INTIMIDATED BY LASER GUIDED BOMBS, ROBOTIC WEAPONRY, COMPUTER CRASHING VIRUSES, BIOTERROR, OR B1 BOMBERS.
- e. FREEDOM, WE HOLD DEAR, SACRIFICES FOR GOD GIVEN LIBERTIES, WE APPLAUD: COURAGE IN THE FACE OF CHAOS, WE SALUTE.
- f. BUT WHAT MAKES US “COMPLETE” IS NOT IN THE POWER AND ABILITY OF MAN TO PROVIDE.
- g. OUR HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS THAN JESUS BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

XI. ISRAEL WAS NOT REMISS TO HOPE IN HIM:

- a. THE SAME GOD WHO MADE A PATH OF STARS IN THE HEAVENS THAT WE CALL “THE MILKY-WAY,”
- b. THE SAME GOD WHO STRETCHED THE NORTH OVER AN EMPTY PLACE AND HUNG THE WORLD ON NOTHING,
- c. THE SAME GOD “SPOKE” THE WORLD INTO EXISTENCE,
- d. THAT SAME GOD PAINTED THE RAINBOW, TINTED THE SKY A VELVET BLUE, BORDERED THE MOUNTAINS WITH A CARPET OF GREEN, AND SPRAYED THE SUNSET IN GOLD,
- e. THAT SAME GOD SENT MOSES TO SAY, “LET MY PEOPLE GO,”
- f. EGYPT IS POINT “A” – CANNAN LAND IS “B” AND SOMEWHERE IN-BETWEEN GOD DESIRED THAT ISRAEL WOULD FILL THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS WITH **HOPE**.

XII. THE SONG OF SOME YEARS AGO STATES:

WHO’S THAT WALKING ON THE WATER—HE WAS MORE THAN JUST A MAN, THE LAWS OF NATURE COULD NOT BIND HIM, ALL POWER WAS GIVEN IN HIS HAND, THAT’S WHEN HE PROVED HE WAS MORE THAN JUST A MAN.

XIII. ROLL BACK RED SEA YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR HIM. MAKE WAY JORDAN RIVER.... “THERE’S A PROMISE COMING DOWN THIS DUSTY ROAD, FROM HIS HOLY HANDS POWER, VIRTUE, PRIVILEGE, AND BLESSING FLOWS.”

- a. IT WAS JOSHUA WHO BY DIVINE INSPIRATION GAVE THIS ENDURING EDICT:

“And if it seems evil unto **you** to serve the LORD, **choose you this day** whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

XIV. DAVID SAID – I did not come here to impress

- a. I know where point “a” is—it’s in the sheep pastures of my Father’s land
- b. There where God gave me victory over the Lion and the Bear.
- c. That is point “a” and today point “b” is out there in front of me—It is a giant with towering visage and great strength.
- d. I’m standing in the company of jealous brothers, fearful people, and a king whose armor is of no use.
- e. All I have is this **COMPLETE HOPE—I’M COMING YOUR WAY, GOLIATH**.
- f. Laugh if you will, taunt if you want, but this is not your battlefield. **THE SAME GOD THAT DELIVERED ME FROM THE LION AND THE BEAR IS GOING TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN WHERE I HAVE BEEN AND WHERE I NEED TO GO WITH HIS POWER AND PRESENCE.** “I will never leave you or forsake you, I will go with you always even to the end of the world.”

XV. SOME QUESTIONS SIMPLY MUST BE ANSWERED

- a. Hear Jesus ask his disciples, “Will you also go away?”
- b. Perhaps you have found something else with which to bridge the gap. Now you want to move from “a” to hoping and holding someone else’s hand.
- c. Simon Peter said it well when he exclaimed, “Lord, to whom shall we go, thou hast the words of eternal life.” There simply is no other hope out there that compares with God.
- d. **“How shall we escape,** if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*” (Hebrews 2:3).

XVI. “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost” (John 19:30).

- a.** The HOPE of the ages is now complete, the sacrifice has been made, the blood has been shed, and we are able to now “come boldly to the throne of grace.” Now we approach by a “new and living way.”
- b.** Go on to that “upper room” experience, the “resurrecting power” of God Himself. Give Him a chance to fill your life with “COMPLETE HOPE.”

CONCLUSION

Sing on saints of the most high. This is Easter and the world needs to hear it again—He made the tomb an empty place. “The chains of the grave could not hold Him. The power of death could not bind Him. The gates of Hell could not stop Him. He came forth with the keys in His hand, and that is when He proved He was more than just a man.”