

Sermon ~ Sunday, December 27, 2020

Text: Psalm 51: 1-12 (Verse, 12, "Restore unto me **The JOY of THY Salvation...**")

Title: "The JOY of GOD'S Salvation"

Another **CHRISTmas** has come and gone! This one, will you agree, was like *none* ever before! My, My, My, the proverb is true: "You never miss the water till the well runs dry!" We can be momentarily drunk with pleasures, until that moment passes! We never realize the blessing of **The Church**, until we relocate into some distant City. It is possible, I know, we never realize **The JOY of GOD'S Salvation**, until we found ourselves *without HIS JOY!* Ooooh,

"The JOY of GOD'S Salvation"

This Psalm (*Song*) is like a ladder which climbs from the horrible pit, with its miry clay, into the heights of *sunny JOY*, where the song breaks from a *forgiven heart*. Here is the cry of *the lost sheep*, which has been torn by briars and thorns of waywardness, harried by wild dogs (evil spirits), drenched in the muddy and boggy ground, BUT **The GOOD SHEPHERD**, found that *sheep* and put it on **HIS SHOULDER'S** and brought it home rejoicing.

That is what happened to David (it happened to me), the King of Israel. We know of his *sins*: *adultery* with Bathsheba and complicity in the *murder* of her husband, Uriah (II Samuel 11-12). It was not until Bathsheba bore David a son that he *repented* of his *sins*. For almost a year, he lived *without The JOY of GOD'S Salvation*. Oh, it's easy to take **Salvation** for granted. But when *sin(s)*, attitudes, and behaviors lead us into darkness, we suddenly realize what we have lost: **JOY!** But **JOY**, is only a prayer away!

"The JOY of GOD'S Salvation"

Plea for *pardon* and *forgiveness* for *sin(s)*. **GOD** is more ready to *forgive* and *pardon* than we are to *confess* our *sin(s)* and *seek HIS pardoning*.

GOD is, Compassionate. Verse 1, "Have *mercy* upon me. O GOD, according to **THY lovingkindness**; according unto the multitude of **THY tender mercies**." This is where we all *must* begin, regarding our *sin(s)* and **GOD!** David began *with GOD'S Divine Mercy*. It is gracious. It is *lovingkindness*. Its **G.R.A.C.E.** (**GOD** looking beyond our fault(s) and meeting our 'need.' Its unmerited, undeserved favor. It is generous. Mercy is not miserly. It is *generous*. It is gentle. In the Hebrew language, "*tender mercies*" means "womb" which in figure (before the days of abortion) **GOD gently, mercifully, cared** for us before we committed abortion. **Soul Salvation** is based on **The Grace and Mercy of GOD!**

We must Confess. David *confessed* his deeds of *adultery* and *murder*, to **GOD!** Notice, he did not whitewash his deeds of *adultery* and *murder*. He called them as they were, *adultery* and *murder*. *I transgressed* (vss. 1, 3): violated **YOUR Law**; rebelled, willfully disobeyed **YOU, GOD**. *I committed iniquity* (v. 2): crookedness from the straight line of *rectitude* (right thinking); evil thinking, premeditated crime, fault and mischief. *I committed sin*: (vss. 2, 3) missing the mark.

I sinned (v. 4): missing **The Way (JESUS)**; failed; off target, and seductive, that is, involved in adulterous acts (spiritually seducing idols). *I was evil* (v. 4), unethical, immoral, injurious to others. *I am guilty of sins* (v. 9). *Iniquities* (v. 9) *Blood-quiltiness* (v. 14), that is, *I* shed blood, slaughtered, murdered. However, **GOD** longed to *forgive me*, but *confession must* be made!

"The JOY of GOD'S Salvation"

GOD will *Cleanse you*. *Sin* defiles, it dirties from the inside out. Notice verses, 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, David cries out for **GOD'S** *cleansing*: "blot out my transgressions"; "Wash me"; "Cleanse me"; "Purge me"; "Create in me a *clean* heart". Until a *sinner* sees themselves filthy from *sin*, they will not ask to be *cleansed* of *sin*.

GOD along can *Clear us from Sin*. "Against **THEE, THEE** only, have I *sinned*..." (v. 4) ALL *sin* is against **GOD**! Yes, we may *sin* against others and even ourselves, but every *sin* is primarily against **GOD**. Like David, we all ought to be concerned that **GOD** *pardon* us, and that **GOD** be *honored*. *True repentance* is not only seeking to rid oneself of the punishment of *sin*, but it also seeks to *honor* **GOD**.

GOD along can *Cheer* our heart. "Restore unto me **The JOY of THY Salvation**. First, no what you've *loss*. *I loss Peace* (v. 3). *I loss Pleasure* (v. 8, 12). *I loss Health* (v. 8). *I loss GOD'S Presence* (v. 11). *I loss Godly Persuasion* (v. 11). *I loss Freedom* (v. 12). *I loss JOY* (v. 12). **GOD'S** *forgiveness* brings **JOY**, *chara*, (khar-ah') that is, *I loss* the awareness of **GOD'S** *grace, favor* and *mercy*!

JESUS was wounded for me, wounded for me, **HE** was wounded for me.

JESUS was dying for me, dying for me, **HE** was dying for me.

Sin took away my **JOY**, then sorrows flooded my soul, BUT **Thank GOD**, it was only for 'a season.' (Hebrews 11: 25)

JESUS was risen for me, risen for me, **HE** was risen for me.

Gone my transgression, and now I'm free, All because **JESUS** was risen for me!

JESUS is coming for me, coming for me, **HE** is coming for me.

Then with what **JOY HIS** *dear* **FACE** I shall see, Oh, how I praise **HIM**,

HE'S coming for me.

GOD'S Salvation is a *Divine Romance*!

GOD'S Salvation provides *Deliverance* from *sin* and *spiritual death*, through *repentance* and *Grace* through **Faith in JESUS CHRIST**!

GOD'S Salvation so *Loves*; so, *Justifies*; so, *Sanctifies*; so, *Glorifies*!

“No Greater Love”

(by Smokie Norful)

For **GOD** so *loved* the world, that **HE** *gave* **HIS** *only* begotten **SON**,
The SON *gave* **HIS** *life* for me, When **HE** *died* on Calvary!

There is *no Greater Love, no Love* nowhere, *no Greater Love*,
Than a man would lay down **HIS** *life* for a friend.
No Love nowhere, I've searched all over!

There is *no Greater Love, no Greater Love, no Greater Love*,
Than a man would lay down **HIS** *life* for a friend.

No Greater Love! No Greater Love!
JESUS went to Calvary, to save a wrench like you and me,
That's *Love*, that's *Love!*

They hung **HIM** high, they stretched **HIM** wide,
HE hung **HIS** *Head*, and then **HE** died,
That's *Love*, that's *Love!*

That's not how the story ends,
Three days later, three days later, three days later,
HE rose again!
That's *Love*, that's *Love!*

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