

The Christian's Great Cause for Rejoicing

Isa 12:1-2 And in that day you will say: "O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid;

After the great and glorious proclamation in Chapter eleven, concerning the enlargement of the Church of God, having learned that God's kingdom will be spread throughout the nations as the waters cover the earth. And further learning, that the Gentiles will be brought into and made one with the common wealth of Israel, the ancient people of God. This promises being presented in such a manner as to provide full confidence in the promises of God; indeed, such promises are to be considered as sure as the final fulfillment. Even as the Apostle Paul tells us that ". . . *all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God.*" (2 Cor 1:20)

Let us as God's people rejoice in this, the hope we have as Christians in the promises of God is not founded on a "hope so", "maybe so" "keep your fingers crossed faith" but our hope is founded on a faith that speaks of certainty. With Paul we too can say, "*I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day.*" We stand upon solid ground in Christ Jesus. Is He not called our rock, our fortress and our deliverer; our God, and our strength, in whom we will trust? (cf. Ps 18:2)

Now as we come to this 12th chapter of Isaiah we are called to respond with praise for what God has done and will do. But before we come to those words of praise that we are to proclaim, by way of introduction we are to note two things. First, The Lord was angry with us with cause and rightfully so, and then Isaiah points out that Secondly, God is our salvation, our means of forgiveness and acceptance with God.

A. The Lord was angry with us with just cause

1. First let us be mindful that this was true of Israel in Isaiah's Day.

- a. Israel had sinned in rejecting God and turning to idolatry
- b. God would be just in sending them into captivity in Babylon
- c. In mercy God would restore them to the land
- d. In that day they were to rejoice in praise and thanksgiving

2. For it is also true for us today in that we too have sinned and come short of the glory of God

- a. The Lord did not choose us because we were not sinners.
- b. As the church we need to ever be mindful that we are merely sinners saved by grace.
- c. We must always keep in mind Paul's list of sins and then his proclamation, "and such were some of you."

1 Cor 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- (1) Note carefully he is not giving approval of these sins
- (2) He warns us that such life styles will keep one out of heaven
- (3) But he reminds the church that they were guilty of such sins but they have been washed, sanctified and justified in Christ

- d. Let us ever be reminded we are not without sin

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- e. Had we been standing in the crowd that day when Jesus said, "let him that is without sin cast the first stone," could have you cast that first stone?

3. We were children of wrath even as others

Eph 2:1-3 ". . . were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom we all also once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

4. Believers must therefore;
 - a. first acknowledge their guilt,
 - b. Trust in the mercy of God alone
 - c. And then rejoice that they have been freed from God rightful wrath

B. The result of our repentance and faith

1. His anger is turned away
 - a. Often we say Christ saved us from our sins
 - b. The truth is, Christ has saved us from the wrath of God
 - c. Think of Ephesians ch. 2 vs. 2 again, you **were** children of wrath even as others.
2. We have found comfort in God
 - a. His anger has been removed
 - b. We now have peace with God

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

C. Finally the means is presented - *Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid*

1. Once again Scripture speaks to us of the work of Christ in our behalf.
2. God is our salvation, and how is that
 - a. God made Christ to be sin for us and suffer the wrath we deserved

*2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

- b. Saint of God, does that not fill your heart with thankful praise?
3. Be renewed in your faith on hearing this - *Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid*
 - a. I will trust
 - b. With Paul be persuaded that God is able to keep that which you've committed unto Him against that day.
 - c. And what is "**that day**"? that is spoken of here?
 - d. It is that great day of judgment
 - e. And how is it that we may trust and not be afraid?

CONCLUSION: The child of God need not fear the great day of God's wrath

Be aware that day of wrath will come.

Scripture asks a most important question regarding that day

Rev 6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Who shall be able to stand?

- Those who have seen and acknowledged their sinfulness
- Those who are trusting in the work of Christ in their behalf
- Those who are abiding in the shadow of His wings.

Dear flock of God, we need have no fear

- Our punishment has been removed
- Not because we have paid to the justice of God what we had deserved,
- But because in love beyond comprehension God has provided for us a substitute to bear His wrath

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus

Truly God is our refuge and our strength