

## Delight

### 2 Chronicles 17:1-6

#### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of Judah; the son of Asa and reigned 25 years (1 Kgs. 22:41).
  - A. **\*\*** Contemporary of king Ahab in Israel (1 Kgs. 22:41), but a good king (for the most part):
    - (1) *“he walked in the ways of his father Asa. He did not turn aside from them, doing what was right in the eyes of the LORD.”* (1 Kgs. 22:43).
    - (2) He banished *“the perverted persons”* from Judah (1 Kgs. 22:46).
    - (3) His righteous ways brought peace (providentially) to Judah during most of his reign (i.e., Judah’s neighbors *“did not make war against Jehoshaphat”*; 1 Chr. 17:10).
    - (4) Religious reforms:
      - (a) It was said of him, *“good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God.”* (2 Chr. 19:3)
      - (b) He commissioned various Levites to go *“throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people”* (i.e., *“the Book of the Law of the LORD”*; 1 Chr. 17:9).
    - (5) Legal reforms installing judges who *“do not judge for man but for the LORD”* (2 Chr. 19:6).
    - (6) When war did come w/Ammon and Moab; *“Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD”*; and he prayed a great prayer in a public assembly; and the Lord gave Jehoshaphat and Judah a great and miraculous victory (2 Chr. 20:1-30).
  - B. **3** However, He wasn’t perfect:
    - (1) He made peace with the wicked king Ahab of Israel *“by marriage”* (1 Kgs. 22:44, 48; 1 Chr. 18:1; i.e., one of his sons married a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel).
    - (2) Religious reforms didn’t stick (i.e., At beginning of his reign removed *“high places”* (1 Kgs. 22:43; 2 Chr. 17:6); later the people rebuilt many of them (2 Chr. 20:33).
2. **\*\*** But, overall, God was pleased with Jehoshaphat: 2 Chr. 17:3-6 (screen)
3. **4** Let’s focus on the word *“delight”* (i.e., something that brings pleasure, because it is good, acceptable, pleasant, desired.).

#### II. DISCUSSION:

##### **The Lord delights in our...**

1. **5** Broken heart:

**Psa. 51:16-17:** *“For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not **delight** in burnt offering. I 7 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — These, O God, You will not despise.”*

  - A. I admit that for many years I was naïve about teaching people the gospel.
    - (1) I tortured myself since so few people respond to the gospel.
    - (2) I thought it was simply a matter of finding the right approach; finding out the specific “button to push” for that person; and then, just present the gospel in the right words and bingo they’re converted!
    - (3) We need to do all we can when teaching people to know “where they are” spiritually; and present the gospel in a way they can understand.

- (4) \*\* But, people are impervious to the gospel if their heart is not broken!
  - (5) If their heart is not in the right place; there is no way you or I can “massage the message” to make the gospel appeal to them.
- B. It’s simple: A person’s heart must be “broken” or the gospel is powerless (Rom. 1:16-17).
- (1) Jesus spoke of this in the beatitudes:
 

**Matt. 5:3-5:** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.”
  - (2) Jesus spoke of this in the parable of the sower and the seed:
 

**Lk. 8:11-15:** “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”
  - (3) The necessity of a broken heart has always been true for the Lord to delight in us!
 

**Isa. 66:2:** “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.”
- C. \*\* Does the Lord delight in your heart?
- (1) Jesus has “the words of eternal life” (Jn. 6:68)
  - (2) But, those words have no power in my life if my heart’s not receptive (**Jas. 1:21:** “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”; 2 Cor. 13:5)

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#### **2. 6 Obedience:**

- 1 Sam. 15:22-23:** “So Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”
- A. Obedience flows naturally from one who:
- (1) Is “of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” (Isa. 66:2)
  - (2) Is “poor in spirit”; one “who mourn[s]” over sins, one who “receive[s] with meekness the implanted word” (Matt. 5:3-5; Jas. 1:21).
- B. \*\* We recognize the bullheadedness of the Israelites; they just wouldn’t listen to God: e.g.,
- (1) In taking the Promised Land after the failure of the spies (e.g., Num. 14).
  - (2) In the days of the prophets (e.g., Jer. 11:11; Ezek. 3:7).
  - (3) In the days of Jesus (e.g., Jn. 8:43; Matt. 23:37-38).
- C. But, you and I would never make such a mistake...right?!
- 1 Jn. 2:3-6:** “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”
- D. Is obedience on your conscious mind? Is it on your mind:

- (1) When you wake up?
  - (2) When you go to work, school, etc.?
  - (3) When you go through your daily routine?
  - (4) When you are sitting at home at night frittering away your time watching TV, playing computer games, or surfing the net?
  - (5) When you go to bed at night?
- E. We cannot just put our mind on idle and go about our business not thinking about the Lord, not thinking about obeying Him, not focusing our energy and attention on Him.
- Psa. 119:15-16:** *"I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I 6 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word."*
- Phil. 4:8-9:** *"Finally, brethren, whatever things are **true**, whatever things are **noble**, whatever things are **just**, whatever things are **pure**, whatever things are **lovely**, whatever things are of **good report**, if there is any **virtue** and if there is anything **praiseworthy** — meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you."*
- F. We will not consistently obey God's Word unless we make a conscious, determined and diligent effort to do so! **2 Pet. 1:10-11:** *"Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent** to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; I 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*
- (1) "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."
  - (2) There is a really big difference between "lip service" and real service.
  - (3) Funeral parlors are filled with people that gave nary a thought to obeying God, yet they are "in a better place." Really?! **Matt. 7:13-14:** *broad way...many there be which go in thereat...strait...narrow...way...leadeth unto life...few there be that find it."*
  - (4) Leon Odom: "Nobody will make it to heaven by the 'skin of their teeth.' We'll either have an 'abundant entrance' or no entrance at all." (Jn. 10:10)

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#### **3. 7 Honesty:**

**Prov. 11:1:** *"Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is His **delight**."*

**Prov. 12:22:** *"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His **delight**."*

**Prov. 16:13:** *"Righteous lips are the **delight** of kings, and they love him who speaks what is right."*

A. This is applicable to the obvious issues of honesty as it concerns lying, cheating, stealing, etc.

B. Easier to cut corners when most do (e.g., taxes; esp. in light of govt. waste; Matt. 22:21).

C. \*\* But I want to address two other aspects of honesty:

(1) Honesty in all things, at all cost (explain esp. to young people; 1 Thess. 5:22):

**Rom. 12:17:** *"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things **honest** in the sight of all men."*

**2 Cor. 8:21:** *"Providing for **honest** things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."*

**1 Pet. 2:12:** *"Having your conversation **honest** among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."*

(2) \*\* Honesty with ourselves in our personal relationship w/God (explain; 2 Cor. 13:5):

**Gal. 6:3-4:** “For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work...”

**Jas. 1:22:** “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (“round-tuit”).

**Gal. 6:7:** “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

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#### **4. 8 Prayers:**

**Prov. 15:8:** “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.”

- A. Praying is something I think we all know we need to do more of; but it is also very easy not to do it (sort of like New Year’s resolutions).
- B. The Bible tells us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17); yet, can you honestly say you even pray every day?
- C. There are some 25 prayers of Jesus are recorded in the gospels:
  - (1) He prayed when alone: Matt. 14:23; Mk. 1:35; Lk. 9:18; 22:39-41
  - (2) He prayed in public: Jn. 11:41-42; 12:27-30
  - (3) He prayed before meals: Matt. 26:26; Mk. 8:6; Lk. 24:30; Jn. 6:11
  - (4) He prayed before important decisions: Lk. 6:12-13
  - (5) He prayed before healing: Mk. 7:34-35
  - (6) He prayed after healing: Lk. 5:16
  - (7) He prayed to do the Father's will: Matt. 26:36-44
- D. Jesus taught about prayer: Matt. 21:22; Mk. 11:24-26; Matt. 7:7-11; Lk. 11:9-13; Jn. 14:13-14; Jn. 15:7, 16; 16:23-24; Matt. 5:44; Lk. 6:27-28; Matt. 6:5-15; etc., etc.
- E. \*\* Just imagine: The Creator and Sustainer of the Universe wants us to communicate with Him! What a blessing!

**Heb. 4:15-16:** “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
- F. Jesus lamented about our lack of faith in prayer: “...when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Lk. 18:8)
- G. Let us be determined to give God “delight” by praying more often and with more faith in the power of prayer (**Jas. 1:5-6:** “let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally, and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...”).

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#### **5. 9 Sincere worship:**

**Isa. 1:11:** “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” Says the LORD. ‘I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats.’”

- A. The Jews were cured of idolatry in “the furnace of affliction” (Babylonian captivity; Isa. 48:10).
- B. However, that did not cure them of taking the Lord for granted: Mal. 1:6-10
- C. Collectively, I think we do just fine in our worship here at Westside; I’m not saying we don’t have to be collectively on guard regarding our worship (always try to improve!).

- D. But, when it comes to your worship; I can't know what's in your heart, and you can't know what's in my heart.
- (1) I think our custom of a moment of silence before beginning our worship is fantastic.
  - (2) We need to take advantage of those few moments (e.g., ask God to help me get the 'thoughts and cares of the world' out of my mind, and thank Him for the opportunity to worship! 2 Pet. 3:9; Jas. 4:14).
- E. **10** We must always remind ourselves of a few things when we worship (not exhaustive list):
- (1) Life's most important activity and greatest privilege: **Matt. 22:37**: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."
  - (2) I am a participant and not a spectator: e.g., Eph. 5:19
  - (3) Magnificence of Him who is worshiped: **Psa. 29:2**: "Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."
  - (4) Our basic relationship with Him: **Psa. 95:6**: "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."
  - (5) No casual attitude: **Psa. 96:9**: "Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth."
  - (6) In recognition of His holiness: **Psa. 99:9**: "Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy." (Imagine He is here in our midst 'in person'! He is! Matt. 18:20)
  - (7) He is our life giver and sustainer: **Acts 17:25, 28**: "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ... 28 in Him we live and move and have our being."
- F. **11** There is so much to say on this subject, but please consider two more things:
- (1) If I don't enthusiastically enjoy worship here and now; if I don't anxiously and joyously look forward to it; why would I ever think I would be happy in heaven? e.g., Rev. 5:1-14
  - (2) If I don't worship Him now with joy; the time will come when I will be forced to worship him in sorrow and shame: **Phil. 2:9-11**: "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

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#### **6. 12 Hope:**

**Psa. 147:10-11**: "He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man. 11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy."

A. The Lord knows "hope" is the "anchor of the soul" (**Heb. 6:19-20**: "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.").

B. Hope:

- (1) Gives us the courage to press on despite life's pain and sorrow: 2 Cor. 4:16-18  
**Psa. 31:24**: "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD."
- (2) Gives us reason to rejoice:

**Rom. 5:1-2:** “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

(3) Gives us no disappointment:

**Rom. 5:3-5:** “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope . 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

C. \*\* Paul said: “For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.” (Gal. 5:5)

D. **13** What did he mean by “the hope of the righteousness of faith”?

- (1) It is “the hope of His calling” (Eph. 1:18),
- (2) It is the “one hope” (Eph. 4:4),
- (3) It is “the hope which is laid up for you in heaven” (Col. 1:5),
- (4) It is “the hope of the gospel” (Col. 1:23),
- (5) It is “the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27),
- (6) It is the “hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2; 3:7),
- (7) It is “a living hope through the resurrection of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:3),
- (8) It is the “hope” of “when He is revealed, we shall be like Him” (1 Jn. 3:2-3),

E. **14** It is the hope of “the resurrection of life” (Jn. 5:29):

- (1) Hope of a changed body: “we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (1 Cor. 15:52-53)
- (2) Hope of a “transformed body” “be conformed to His glorious body” (Phil. 3:20-21).
- (3) Hope of being with Him forever! 1 Thess. 4:17

F. \*\* Think of it: God takes great delight in being able to give us this great hope! It really “trips His trigger”!

- (1) What does that say about His character?
- (2) And, what should be our attitude and response?

G. Does this hope sustain you? Do you meditate about it? Cherish it? Feel its power?

### III. CONCLUSION: **15**

1. Before the Lord can delight in us, we must first delight in Him:

**Psa. 37:4:** “Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

2. To delight in the Lord we must delight in His word, in His commandments, in His laws:

**Psa. 119:174:** “I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my delight.”

3. What is your delight?