A Christian's Happiness

Text : Romans 8: 26-39

INTRODUCTION :

A. Christianity is about JOY

1. We experience joy in spite of our circumstances, … independent of circumstances.
2. No circumstances can destroy true happiness.
3. The bible says there is a joy available that is not subject to circumstances.
   a. This is a joy that even the deepest trouble can't put out.
   b. If properly nourished and nurtures joy can co-exist with and even overcome the deepest grief or the most negative of circumstances.
   c. This joy should make the Christian at least quietly happy. **(Gal. 5:22 .. fruit)**

B. This is clearly stated many places in the scriptures, for example :

1. **John 17: 13-** I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.
2. **John 16: 22-** Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.
3. Amazing .. **H**e is talking to His Apostles. **He knew what would happen in their lives.**
   a. They were persecuted. **(beaten, imprisoned, publically humiliated)**
   b. They lost everything they owned.
   c. Ultimately, they were killed.
   d. **Jesus says,** I'm giving you a joy that can stand up to even that, **to anything.(see "a")**

C. This makes me wonder, *"Does my joy have this kind of imperviousness to the circumstances of life?"* Sadly, not !

1. Why ? We don't understand the nature of this joy.
2. **Rom 8** is about living in a world of wickedness and suffering. **(persecution & poverty)**
3. How is a Christian supposed to live in a world like that ? Let alone be joyous in it.

D. The context of our text in Romans 8.

1. Christians can live without fear of condemnation.
2. To do so, one must have his heart and mind set on spiritual things.
3. A mind set on spiritual things causes one not to indulge the desires of the flesh.
4. **Read … 8: 16-18 … They were experiencing suffering.**
5. Both Christians and creation are eager for the relief that will come when Christ returns.

TRANSITION :

Romans 8: 28-30 … Let us observe three principles revealed in these famous verses.

1- Vs. 28 – God works our bad experiences so they turn out for our good.

2- Vs. 29 – Our good things cannot be lost.

3- Vs. 30 – Our best things are yet to come.

I. Vs. 28 – God works our bad experiences so they turn out to our ultimate good.

A. Vs. 28- And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

B. There are three implications of this principle :

1. The Christian cannot anticipate that his circumstances will be better than anyone else's.

a. Many loose their joy because they relate them to external pleasantries.

b. Terrible things happen to people who love God.

c. Many charlatans teach that only good things happen to Christians. **Malicious error !!**

d. In the text **"all things"** means all things , whether good or bad.

e. Vs. 35– Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

***Thus, the Apostle anticipated that all these things would come upon Christians.**

f. We live in an evil world. **The consequences of sin affect us all.**

2. Secondly, when things work together for good in your life, it is because of God.

a. Things don't naturally work themselves together for good. **God does it.**

b. When things work together for good it's because God did it.

c. Things don't work together for good to every one, but to those who love the Lord.

d. By nature, things fall apart and degenerate. **(Everything is subject to decay.)**

1) Everyone in a body grows old and falls apart.

2) Those grains of sand on the beach used to be a rock.

e. Western people need to get rid of the idea that things are supposed to go right.

1) When things go wrong they look for someone to sue, because they think "things ought to go right." **(** *They think, If anything goes wrong, it's someone's fault.* **)**

2) If you are blessed with good health or prosperity, THANK GOD.

3. The third implication of the principle is **:**
   Although bad things happen**,** God works them to good**.**
   a. The promise is not that Christians will be in better circumstances**.**
   b. It also does not that the bad things are actually good**.**
   c. Bad things happen, but God brings good results from them**.**

*** ILL. – Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus … Lazarus' death was a bad thing.**

C. Our JOY will be impervious if we keep these three principles in mind.

1. Bad things WILL happen to you**.**
2. Half of the reason we are despondent is because we are shocked that bad happened**.**
3. "Everything is necessary that God sends**;** nothing can be necessary that God withholds**.**"
   a. God will only allow bad things to come into your life to destroy things that would destroy you in the long run**.**
   b. The only things that really destroy a person are **:**
      a rebellious heart, foolishness, pride, selfishness, hard heartedness, refusal to believe in God or feeling you don't need Him.
   c. Until we understand the reality of the promise, evil will continue to shock us**.**

II. Vs. 29 – Our good things cannot be lost

A. Rom. 8: 28 is most often taken out of context and misunderstood. (feel good vs)

1. It is error to think **: "**When bad things happen, surely good things will happen**.**"
2. E,G., I didn't get the job I wanted THUS there must be a better one out there for me**.**

B. There is a very important little word between verses 28 and 29 … "FOR."

1. **"For"** indicates that verse **29** explains the reason or workings of verse **28. (*Vs go together*)**
2. God doesn't promise His followers better circumstances**,** He promises a better life**.**
3. It is a great error to understand **verse 28** to promise a joy based on circumstances**.**
   a. Jesus did not suffer so we would not suffer in this life**.**
   b. Jesus died so that when we suffer we will become like Him and dwell with Him**.**
   c. **Remember : Heb. 5: 8 & Phil. 2: 5-8 … Jesus learned obedience by suffering.**

C. This is part of God's eternal plan. (Predestined means "fixed/set ahead of time.")

1. The "**called**" ones (*Christians*) are to be **"conformed."**
2. The word translated **"conform"** is ***"morpha"*** from which we get "**metamorphosis.**"
3. God promises to use our life circumstances to change our essence into that of Jesus**.**

a. When one's belief becomes faith he falls passionately in love with the character of Jesus**.**

b. God uses everything that happens in your life to move you toward that conformation**.**

D. Notice the word "glorified" is in the past tense.

1. The conformation of the Christian into the likeness of Christ is so certain; it is a fact**.**

2. You add the faith and God takes care of the rest**. (Faith trusts and it accepts.)**

E. "Firstborn among many brethren" indicates we are all brothers of Jesus / God.

1. Being adopted into a family makes one a part of the family and expected to reflect the values of that family**.**

2. In Rome most adoptions were of adults; adopted to be heirs of childless people.

3. The minute one becomes a Christian, he's in an intimate family relationship with God**.**

III. Vs. 30 – For the Christian the best things are yet to come.

A. Why can you be joyful no matter what ?

1. The bad things that happen to you will turn out to your ultimate good**.**

2. Your good things can never be lost**.**

3. The best things are yet to come**.**

B. If we understand what is to come, we can endure anything that comes our way.

1. Christians are **"Justified."**

a. "Justified" just as if I'd never sinned**.**

b. There is no barrier between God and one who is justified**.**

I John 4: 18– There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

c. The **"Justified"** one has an intimate personal relationship with his Heavenly Father**.**

*** God's children don't wait in line for access.**

2. Christians are **"glorified." (present tense)**

a. We have been transformed (*morphed*) by the blood of Christ and the events of our life**.**

b. As Jesus is, so shall we be**.**

1) We will be raised in His likeness**. Rom. 6: 5**

2) We will judge angels**. I Cor. 6: 3 (We'll be above the angels.)**

3) We have an eternal home prepared and waiting for us**.**

Read … .I Pet. 1: 3-5

c. We will reign with the Christ as members of the royal family**.**

Read … .I Tim. 2: 8-13

C. Being GLORIFIED is as big a deal as there is. THE ULTIMATE MOTIVATION

I Pet. 1:4– For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

CONCLUSION :

A. As the Christians passes through this world, it is with a sense of supreme confidence.

1. He knows that all His life experiences will combine to make Him like the Christ.
2. He knows that God gives all the good he needs and that he will never loose it.
3. He realizes that he is just passing through a burdensome place on his way to glory.

THEREFORE : The Christian's joy is not tied to external circumstances.

B. Nothing we experience on this earth can compare to the future God has prepared.

Read … Romans 8: 14–21

INVITATION :

This joy is available to all who will surrender themselves and be adopted as sons.

1. If you don't have this joy, it is because you are not in Him.
2. I implore you to quit trusting in yourself and place your total faith and trust in HIM.
   a. Reject the world's temporary pleasures in favor of that which is eternal.
   b. Surrender your life to God's control and serve Him.
   c. Form a covenant with Him by being baptized.
3. **As you live your life in service to Him, it will be in joyful anticipation of the glory to come.**

   No circumstance will be able to take that JOY from you.

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