

CXXVI. THOSE WHO SOW IN TEARS SHALL REAP WITH SHOUTS OF JOY: Psalm 126

INTRODUCTION: RQ1. Have you been redeemed or delivered from *anything* by God—sin’s penalty? sin’s enslaving power? suffering? **RQ2.** Is there anything you need to be redeemed or delivered from by God—sin’s penalty? indwelling sins? suffering?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions then this Psalm is for you! Now, no matter who you are you can answer yes to at least one of these questions, and likely more. **Therefore this Psalm is for you!**

THEME: Two questions.

QI. How should those who have been redeemed by Christ respond to his deliverance? There are four answers to this question in [verses 1-3](#).

QII. How should those who are still awaiting redemption by Christ think and act as they wait? There are three answers to this question in [verses 4-6](#).

I. HOW SHOULD THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN REDEEMED BY CHRIST RESPOND TO HIS DELIVERANCE? (Psalm 126:1-3)

The first answer is the longest because it lays the foundation and it is where we will do our application. Then answers 2,3, and 4 are short and sweet exhortations!

I) Have we been redeemed by Christ? Then we should think “this is too good to be true!” (Psalm 126:1).

Psalm 126:1

“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.”

BOYS AND GIRLS: The good news of Christ Jesus sounds too good to be true! But it is.

(I) Think how Christ has redeemed us from the penalty and power of sin!

- ***Oh! Christians, think how good is sovereign election, forgiveness of sins, imputed righteousness, reconciliation with God, the presence of the Christ, and the promise of heaven!***
- **Just think, beloved. Is this really true?**
 1. **The One who breathed out the planets first breathed out our names because of sovereign love in the covenant of redemption, so that his purpose of election would stand, never for a second leaving our salvation or his glory in it to chance!**
 2. **The Sovereign One emptied himself of his glory by becoming a**

man, even a zygote at conception, a fetus in the womb, a child laid in a manger, a boy submitting to his parents, a young man working his trade, a man then preaching and healing, thereafter suffering and dying to redeem his lost sheep who were drowning in misery!

3. **The Law-giver became to the Law-keeper** to count righteous the Law-breakers!
 4. **The Wrathful One against sin has become the substitute sacrifice for sin** so that we who should be rightly condemned would be mercifully pardoned; **the Holy One was treated on the cross like the unholy ones** so that we who should be rightly burned to death in perpetuity would be blessed to life for all eternity!
 5. **The Author of life submitted to death** so that he could rise from the grave and destroy our last enemy!
 6. **The seated Judge of all the earth has become the ascended Advocate of all who believe** so that we would forever have perfect access to God!
 7. **The One with all authority in heaven and on earth has consented to be with us by the Holy Spirit, through the Scriptures, even in the Lord's Supper**, so that he would sanctify, strengthen, and sustain us to the end of the age!
 8. **The One who walked in the Garden of Eden will shine in the City of New Jerusalem** so that we who believe would see his face forever in happy holiness!
- **Think how Christ has redeemed us from the penalty and power of sin! And then say**, "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream."

(II) Think also how Christ has redeemed us from enslavement to sin!

- **BOYS AND GIRLS**: When Jesus saves a person he frees them from being enslaved to sin.
- **Saints, think of the sins that used to have you by the throat and you thought you would never be free of! I do not know what they were for each of you, but I know if you are truly in Christ you can fill in that blank, remembering the once-enslaving power sin, and evens specific sins, had over you before you were born again.**
 - **Was it love of money?** Was it love of ease and comfort? Was it apathy and indifference? Was it pride? Was it selfishness? Was it man-pleasing? Was it indulging in sinful worry and anxiety? Was it anger? Was it impatience? Was it desires for men or women that you were not in covenant with by marriage? Was it self-righteousness? Was it the idol of your reputation among your family, peers, or society at large? Or did it not seem like any of these things to you because

you were so indifferent to righteousness?

- **I know there are surely many sins you are still struggling to put to death**, beloved, and it must seem like every time you bury it the corpse puts its hand through the grave and climbs out again. But what about those sins that God has enabled you to kill that stay dead? I think if you look back on where you used to be, you would surely be able to say, "I never thought I would not be dominated by that! But Christ has set me free from that enslavement!"
- **1 Peter 1:17** "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers." **Romans 6:17** "Thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart."
- **Think, believers, how Christ has redeemed us from enslavement to sin! If you would think for a while**, and God would be gracious in reminding you of what you used to be enslaved to and how you are now free, you would say "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream."

(III) Think also how Christ has redeemed us from past sufferings!

All of you, think of the past afflictions you have been delivered from that at one time you thought would drown you! **You who are younger may not have as many. The older we get the more we can look back on.*

Q. What seasons of suffering have you been through and come out on the other side?

- Sickness?
Experiencing a "downcast spirit" (**Psalm 42:5**)? (What people in our day call depression)
Losing a loved one?
A broken heart over the lost?
Betrayal or Gossiping or Slander and the hurt that comes with it?
Making a mess of your life in some way by reaping what you have sown for some sin?
Loneliness?
- **Think, all of you, how Christ has redeemed us from past sufferings!**

Q. Have you been redeemed by Christ from sin's penalty and power? sin's enslavement? some suffering? You should then think, "This is too good to be true!" But it is.

II) Have we been redeemed by Christ? Then our mouths should be filled with laughter and our tongues joy (Psalm 126:2).

Psalm 126:2

"Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;"

- **BOYS AND GIRLS:** Jesus' people are the happiest people on earth! He fills our mouths with laughter and our tongues with joy!

BTW. The nations will look upon we who are in Christ and testify (Psalm 126:2b).

Psalm 126:2b

"then they said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'"

III) Have we been redeemed by Christ? Then we should praise the Lord by telling of his great works for us (Psalm 126:3a).

Psalm 126:3a

"The Lord has done great things for us;"

- **THOMAS CASE:** "When God loads us with mercy we should load him with our praises."

IV. Have we been redeemed by Christ? Then we should praise the Lord by telling of the results of his great works for us (Psalm 126:3b).

Psalm 126:3b

"we are glad."

II. HOW SHOULD THOSE STILL AWAITING REDEMPTION BY CHRIST THINK AND ACT AS THEY WAIT? (Psalm 126:4-6)

I) Are we still awaiting redemption by Christ? Then we should cry out to God in prayer (Psalm 126:4).

Psalm 126:4

"Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!"

- **Apply to different cases:**

II) Are we still awaiting redemption by Christ? Then, though our eyes may be filled with tears, we must not lose heart because we have great promises (Psalm 126:5).

Psalm 126:5

"Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!"

(I) You who need to be redeemed from the penalty and power of sin— forgiven and reconciled to God: Can you weep for your sins—your

rebellion to God? Do you want to be forgiven? Do you want to be embraced in love? Do you want to have eternal life that begins now and last forever?

- **BOYS AND GIRLS:** (ask the same questions again)

John 6:40 "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

If you will sow in tears of repentance and go to Christ in faith, he will deliver you and you shall reap with shouts of joy.

(II) You who need to be freed from certain sins that constantly get the mastery over you: can you weep for those sins? Can you, like Peter after he denied Christ, "Go out and weep bitterly"? **(I.)** May God give us all a true sorrow for and hatred of the the indwelling sins we still seek to put to death daily. **(II.)** May he also give us hope in **verse 5:** "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!"

If you are truly in Christ, you will not weep for your indwelling sin forever! It is sanctification time now, but the time of glorification is coming and you shall reap with shouts of joy!

(III) You who need to be delivered from present afflictions, though you weep now you will reap shouts of joy!

All of you, think of your current afflictions—what you are suffering through right now—that seems like it might drown you!

Q. What is it? Think! Let it make the tears well up in your eyes and then look at **verse 5** and trust God's promise: "Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!"

There is no flood of suffering Jesus' hands will not dam up; there are no harms he will not heal; there is no sadness his face will not cause to melt away; there are no tears sown that he will not make grow into shouts of joy!

Now in **verse 6** the Psalm transitions from the plural "we" to the singular "he." This is a promise for *you*, believer!

III) Are you still awaiting redemption by Christ? Then you must do your duty, even through tears, for you will reap if you do not give up (Psalm 126:6).

Psalm 126:6

"He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him."

QI. Have you let your tears keep you from sowing good works?

QII. Have you allowed your weeping keep you from proclaiming?

QIII. Have you let your suffering choke out your duties?

BELOVED, HEAR THESE THREE EXHORTATIONS TO CONCLUDE TODAY:

- **I) Do not let your tears keep you from sowing good works.**
- **II) You must not let your weeping keep you from proclaiming.**
- **III) You cannot let your suffering choke out your duties.**

Psalm 126:6

"He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him."

HENRY: "It was with reference to some great and surprising deliverance of the people of God out of bondage and distress that this psalm was penned, most likely their return out of Babylon in Ezra's time. Though Babylon be not mentioned here (as it is, Ps. 137) yet their captivity there was the most remarkable captivity both in itself and as their return out of it was typical of our redemption by Christ. Probably this psalm was penned by Ezra, or some of the prophets that came up with the first. We read of singers of the children of Asaph, that famous psalmist, who returned then, Ezra 2:41. It being a song of ascents, in which the same things are twice repeated with advancement (ver. 2, 3, and ver. 4, 5), it is put here among the rest of the psalms that bear that title.

I. Those that had returned out of captivity are here called upon to be thankful, ver. 1 - 3.

II. Those that were yet remaining in captivity are here prayed for (ver. 4) and encouraged, ver. 5, 6.

It will be easy, in singing this psalm, to apply it either to any particular deliverance wrought for the church or our own land or to the great work of our salvation by Christ."

V. 1-2

SPURGEON: "The Lord who alone turns our captivity does nothing by halves; those whom he saves from hell he brings to heaven. He turns exile into ecstasy, and banishment into bliss."

THOMAS CASE:

"To such that are currently in afflictions,

I) Consider that God's design is that he might teach thee by his chastisements..."

"It is the great mistake and folly of men, that they make more haste to get their afflictions removed than sanctified."

II) Consider that bare deliverance is not the blessing. . .The blessing of correction is instruction; O let not God go till he bless thee (Genesis 32:26). It is a sad thing to have affliction, but not the blessing of affliction: to feel the wood of the cross, but not the good of the cross; to taste the bitter root, but not the sweet fruit of a suffering condition; the curse, but not the cordial."

THOMAS CASE: "God hath turned the crown of thorns into a crown of gold, and set it on thy head, and now brings thee forth wearing this crown, and shows thee, as it were, to the world as a monument of free grace."