

SUNDAY SERMON QUOTES DECEMBER 16, 2018

Joy Amid Chaos (Joy to the World) – Psalm 98

- Joy only endures when attached to an immovable reality.
- Psalm 98 calls us to action - to “no more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.” Yes, we experience many losses in this life. But we often compound life’s miseries by getting stuck on them. *Our losses often reveal the tragedy of joys attached to things and people unable to bear the weight of our neediness.*
- Worship God for his ability, desire and motivation to save.
- “God just doesn’t throw a life preserver to a drowning person. He goes to the bottom of the sea and pulls a corpse from the bottom of the sea, takes him up on the bank, breathes into him the breath of life and makes him alive.” – R.C. Sproul
- Jesus reigns, but not at a distance. The curse is being turned back now. There is *now* no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1). We were under God’s wrath, we are now no longer under wrath if you are in Christ (John 3:36)
- If the gospel is true, then every tongue must applaud the reign of God in Jesus
- We live in a world where injustice can *feel* like justice where pervasive inequity and injustice are the norm. But the good news is that a Deliverer has come who will judge with righteousness and inequity. No more shady acquittals. No more inequity in the courts. No more oppression and tyranny in the justice system. *“He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove, the glories of his righteous and wonders of his love.”*
- Sing to God a *new song* this Christmas by pursuing your joy in Him, not your losses and longings. Where do these new songs come from? They must come from **reflections of God’s new mercies and fresh encounters with grace.**
- Sing new songs as you reach for new measures of God’s sustaining, never-failing grace? As you reflect on your weakness and need, focus less on your weakness and need, and more on God’s ability, desire and motivation to save.