

TIME OF REFLECTION

“When a society rejects the Christian account of who we are, it doesn’t become less moralistic but far more so, because it retains an inchoate sense of justice but has no means of offering and receiving forgiveness. The great moral crisis of our time is not, as many of my fellow Christians believe, sexual licentiousness, but rather vindictiveness. Social media serve as crack for moralists: there’s no high like the high you get from punishing malefactors. But like every addiction, this one suffers from the inexorable law of diminishing returns.”

~Alan Jacobs, scholar and literary critic

“To get the full value of joy, you must have someone to divide it with.”

~Mark Twain (1835-1910), writer and humorist

“Happiness quite unshared can scarcely be called happiness; it has no taste.”

~Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855), English novelist and poet

“Happiness is only real when shared.”

~Jon Krakauer, writer and mountaineer

“Envy blinds men and makes it impossible for them to think clearly.”

~Malcolm X (1925-1965), Muslim minister and activist

“As a moth gnaws a garment, so doth envy consume a [person].”

~John Chrysostom (c. 347-407), church leader and preacher

“Comparison is the thief of joy.”

~Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), 26th president of the United States

“Since the love which binds the Trinity together is the same love which binds the church to the Son and the saints to each other, we can rightly conclude that the structure of relationship which constitutes the glory of God or God’s internal fullness is the same structure which constitutes the reality of the church.... The re-presentation of the societal and relational structure of God’s Trinitarian life in the community of the saints, is, in a manner of speaking, the visibility of the God in the world.”

~Krister Sairsingh, university professor, in his Harvard doctoral dissertation, “Jonathan Edwards and the Idea of the Divine Glory: His Foundational Trinitarianism and its Ecclesial Import”

SERMON – “The God of Joy” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Galatians 5:13-15, 22-23 (ESV)*

Galatians 5

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another....

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Matthew 3

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he

saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Isaiah 42

¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

John 15

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Philippians 4

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.