

SAVOR YOUR SAVIOR

(Phil. 4:4-9)

Introduction:

1. We often sing the song “Happy Day”, usually after a baptism. It is such a happy day when we begin our Christian walk or when we are encouraged by another beginning their Christian walk. But it is then that the hard work of living as light in a world of darkness begins.
2. It is easy to lose our joy when confronted with the wickedness of the world, the unfaithfulness of brethren, or our own weakness and failures.
3. Let us consider some things that ought to enable us to savor our savior no matter what dark days may come our way. Let us ponder what we have, what comes our way, and what remains.

Discussion:

I. What we have (Phil. 4:4-7).

- A. We are “in the Lord” and thus able to rejoice.
 1. We have been baptized into the Lord (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27)!
 2. That was a result of hearing about His amazing love and grace, and believing it.
 3. That changed everything in our lives (repentance).
 4. That caused us to say the things that God says (confession).
 5. That took us from darkness, doubt, and despair into light, confidence and joy! And again I say rejoice!
- B. We have access to the manifold blessings of God (Eph. 1:3; 3:16-21).
- C. We have an inheritance awaiting us in heaven (1 Pet. 1:3-9).

II. What comes our way (Phil. 4:6-8).

- A. Things that make us anxious.
 1. The wicked world.
 - a. The evil works of the world break our hearts that yearn for righteousness (2 Pet. 2:7, 8).
 - b. The rebellious words of the world break our hearts that yearn for faithfulness (Rom. 1:18-32; Titus 1:9-11).
 2. Unfaithful brethren.
 - a. Those that leave the Lord (Heb. 10:25; 1 John 2:19; 2 Tim. 1:15; et al).
 - b. Those that never fully come to the Lord (John 12:42; 3 John 9-11; Jas. 1:22; 1 John 5:1).
- B. Our weakness and our failures (Phil. 3:12-16).

III. What remains (Phil. 4:9).

- A. Faith.
 1. THE truth remains THE truth (Heb. 13:1-9).
 2. The people we are to be and the work we are to be about has not changed (Jude 3).
- B. Hope.
 1. God’s love has still saved us and will yet save us (Rom. 5:1-10).
 2. Our hope remains because the tomb is still empty (Heb. 6:19, 20; Acts 17:30, 31)!
- C. Love.
 1. God’s love has not ceased or even lessened (1 John 4:12-19; 3:1-3).
 2. Our love is still the only appropriate response to Jesus (2 Cor. 5:14ff).

Conclusion:

1. Like a well designed/built boat, the tempestuous waves of the sea may buffet us but we need not be overthrown. Proving that the church is in the world but the world ought not to be in the church.
2. For the grace we have received, the promises we have been given, and the love that we have been showered with will allow us to overcome all IF we remember and hold fast (John 16:33).
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “SAVOR YOUR SAVIOR”

1. The big picture helps us to persevere through the details. Knowing the end of the story, helps us to weather the negative plot turns of our life. Knowing the final score removes the anxiety of watching a close game.
 - A. 1 Thess. 4:13-18 = in the face of persecution and death, comfort one another with these words.
 - B. John 15 = big picture is we are a branch of the true vine IF we abide in Him, thus obey Him, knowing that this will bring about hatred and tribulation from the world, but stay with Him (summation in 16:33 and empty tomb to come).
 - C. Matt. 10:24-42 = hard teaching on the true purpose and goal of our physical lives.

2. But good news! Jesus has not left us orphans (John 14:18).
 - A. He has warned beforehand (John 13:19; Matt. 24:25; John 14:29; 16:1-7).
 - B. He has walked the path we are to walk and is exalted. We are simply called to follow, not to find and forge the path to salvation (Phil. 2:1-16).
 - C. He has fully armed us with knowledge (2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:14-17).
 - D. He has given us the assembly to supply us with growth, comfort, and companionship (remember the “one another” principle).

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