

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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IT BRINGS MUCH GLADNESS

Larry R. Ping II

Not long ago, I scanned a Facebook post which started with the words, "I will be so glad when Sunday comes because..." This individual went on to post about something pertaining to their efforts to raise money. This statement got me to thinking about what makes me glad. It brings me much gladness when...

1) I Get To Be With My Brethren. In chiding Moses for his efforts to not do as God wished, the Lord said, *"Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart"* (Exo. 4:14). What a wonderful thing it is to be with our spiritual family. I am afraid some see it as a "necessary evil" to spend time with God's people. Paul called upon us to *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another"* (Rom. 12:10). It brings me much gladness to know I will be

with my brothers and sisters in Christ, in person! Seeing my brethren on a computer screen (while at a few select times might be needful) does not, in any way, shape or form replace physically being with them. May we never think so!

2) I Know Help Is On The Way. With the prospect of having their right eyes extracted, but hearing Saul was coming to their aid, the Bible says of the people of Jabeshgilead, *"Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad"* (I Sam. 11:9). I think we would be glad too! Receiving help from others in trying times can bring much refreshment. But the greatest help we have ever received is from Christ. His help for our sin is the subject of some of His most beautiful language. He said, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30). How glad are you Jesus, as prophesied (Isa. 53; Psa. 22), left Heaven and obediently performed His Father's Will, even to the point of His death on the cross (Php. 2:5-8)?

3) I Know God Makes His Mercy Available. The Psalmist penned, *"I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities; And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou hast set my feet in a large room"* (Psa. 31:7-8). Mercy is God's compassion, kindness and generosity all rolled into one. We are not deserving of such, nor is there anything I can do or say earning me such. God is merciful in many ways, but His greatest act of mercy is summed up well by John, who wrote, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only*

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begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16). The result of this gift is immeasurable. John would later remind his readers, *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”* (I Jn. 1:7). It brings me much gladness to know God bestows His mercy on me!

4) I Know That God Brought About This Day. It is recorded, *“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it”* (Psa. 118:24). When one stops to see and consider the beauty and grandeur of God’s creation, he can’t help but be glad in knowing God provided it. David declared, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork”* (Psa. 19:1). Again, he authored, *“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well”* (Psa. 139:14). We do our fair share of complaining and murmuring,

as did God’s people during their time of wilderness wandering. However, we are warned, *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings”* (Php. 2:14). It brings me much gladness to know God has brought forth this day, and the beauty it beholds. You?

5) I Know It Is Sunday And Time To Meet With The Lord’s People. David acknowledged, *“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD”* (Psa. 122:1). Some seem to dread it is Sunday. Others, as noted earlier, are glad it is Sunday for other reasons. In the last couple of decades, kids’ sports (especially of the travel variety) have taken precedence over meeting with God’s people. It is such a wonderful, good thing to be with God’s people (Jam. 4:13-16). It is such a refreshing thing to be with God’s people, worshipping in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24)! How could it not be? It brings me much gladness to know a Sunday morning has dawned, and soon I will be with the Lord’s people. Are you the same?

6) I Know Someone Has Been Delivered From The Pit. We are familiar with the story of Daniel in the lion’s den. When the king learned of Daniel’s survival, he was *“exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God”* (Dan. 6:23). No one I know has ever been trapped in a den of lions. Nonetheless, I have known many steeped in a deep den of sin. Sometimes it is me! Whenever anyone is safely lifted from the pit of sin, it is a cause for rejoicing and gladness. It was for the prodigal’s father who said, *“It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found”* (Lk. 15:32). James said, *“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”* (Jam. 5:19-20). It brings me much gladness to see a lost soul saved. How about you?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm