

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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## ***"The Joy of My Salvation"***

**By Dan Barker**

In Psalms 51, we can learn a lot of things about the heart of David...things that we need to learn about ourselves.

In verse 12, David spoke of the joy of Gods' offer of salvation. I believe this is a good definition of evangelism...telling others about the joy we have because of the hope God has given us.

David knew what it was to be lost and then knowing that he was forgiven by God. That's where the joy comes in...that's why the gospel is called "good news". Because of the joy of his salvation, look what David was motivated to do...v.13 "Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You! That should be our motivation as well...we should be motivated to teach others about Christ because of the joy we have because God has forgiven us of our sins.

Another passage comes to mind in 1 Peter 2:9-10. Here we are told by Peter that we as Christians are:

1. A chosen generation
2. A royal priesthood
3. A holy nation
4. His own special people

And as we come to grips with all that...we further learn that we have a purpose. Do you see what it is?

"That you (you and me) may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light". Isn't that something? David and Peter are focused on evangelism! Why? Because, like us, they both knew what it was like being lost and then being redeemed. They wanted to tell others about the joy of their salvation.

To "proclaim the praises of Him" is our goal. Why? Because He is our Savior, the joy of our salvation.

2

"Guilty, vile and helpless we;  
Spotless Lamb of God was He;  
"Full atonement!" Can it be?  
"Hallelujah! What a Savior!"  
Philip P. Bliss

## ***"We Are Afflicted"***

**By Steve Niemeier**

Paul stated in II Cor. 4:7-10 – *"But we have treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed, but not departing, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed, always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."*

Just recently three congregations here in the Indianapolis area have been afflicted by controversy that has led to division. Not knowing all the details of the particulars of these divisions it is not mine to address these and make a judgment to what or who is right or wrong, etc.

However, it is an observation that Satan is busy. He is doing just what he wants to do and that is to cause confusion and division.

As a result "affliction" has been put upon many. While

this is so sad, Paul is stating an affliction that occurs when the god of the world tries to cover the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is stating that those who uphold and teach the gospel can be afflicted even to the point of death for Christ.

Now the test for us – the "modern day Christian" is before us. Are we afflicted? Have we given up because of Satan's tactics? Have we been crushed? Have we been struck down? Certainly Paul said that they had been.

Paul states in verse 14 of that same passage *"..knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you."* What a comforting thought – we can be raised by the same One who raised Christ.

Philippians 4:13 states *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Do we believe this? Do we believe that when we are struck down or crushed or afflicted? Paul certainly did.

Yes, we can be afflicted – yet we can overcome all things through Christ.

All of us here at Greenwood need to crumble to our knees and pray to God that

we never let Satan afflict us in such a way that a division occurs within us.

### **A SOBERING THOUGHT**

"I have now disposed of all of my property to my family. There is one thing I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion. If they had that (and I had not given them one shilling) they would be rich; and, if they have not that (and I have given them all the world) they would be poor" (Patrick Henry). In this materialistic world, we need to stop and consider what constitutes true riches. We are prone to forget at times how truly rich the Christian is and how pitifully poor one is who is not a faithful Christian (2 Corinthians 8:9). The statement from Mr. Henry is worthy of consideration by parents who are truly concerned for the welfare of their children. Some parents work themselves to death to leave an inheritance for their children and in so doing lose their own souls by neglecting and fail to point their children to a spiritual life. Truly it is a sobering thought!

—Via *The Reminder*  
(Bellaire, Texas)—

### **HALL OF FAME**

When he entered baseball's Hall of Fame, ex-sluggo Harmon Killebrew recalled, "My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass.' 'We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply, 'we're raising boys!'"

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*Becoming angry with one who has told you the truth is like breaking a mirror because of what you saw in it.*

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### **One Preacher's Wife**

Did you hear about the preacher's wife who got carried away with trying to help her husband's ministry? She began by writing out her husband's sermons. She chose the text and then filled in the body of the message with anecdotes denouncing such things as alcohol, tobacco, sex, and the Masonic Lodge. To make sure the congregation got

the point of the sermons, she would make specific applications by using the names of the actual persons in the congregation who needed the admonition. Then she edited and rewrote the sermon two or three times before her husband got up to preach it.

As if there weren't enough, when he got up to preach, this preacher's wife took a seat in the front row and prompted her husband in tones audible to the whole congregation. If he preached too slowly, she would say, "Speed up, David, you're dragging." She told him when to raise his voice, clutch his lapel, pull his beard, and even when to blow his nose. Finally, as he came to the close of his sermon, this "help meet" wife would say, "That will be all for today, David," and ascend to the pulpit, close his Bible and lead him from the platform.

Talk about Women's Lib! I would say this gal went a bit too far. By the way, the preacher was David A. Nation who preached for the First Christian Church of Medicine Lodge, Kansas, in the late 1800's. His wife ..you

guessed it .. was the famous (or infamous, wvb) crusader Carry Nation.

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