

A TRIO OF MOTTOES, 1 THESS. 5:16, 17, 18

I. REJOICE EVERMORE

1. WHY WE SHOULD REJOICE

- A. BECAUSE OF YOUR CONVERSION
- B. BECAUSE OF YOUR PRIVILEGES AS A CHILD OF GOD
- C. BECAUSE OF YOUR HOPE OF GLORY
- D. BECAUSE GOD COMMANDS IT, PHIL. 4:4, REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.
IT IS NOT AN INDIFFERENT THING.
- E. IT WARDS OFF TEMPTATION

2. THE QUALITY OF OUR REJOICING

- A. NOT CARNAL
- B. NOT PRESUMPTUOUS
- C. NOT FANATICAL
- D. IT IS DIVINE AND SPIRITUAL
- E. IT IS THE FRUIT OF THE H.S., GAL. 5:22, BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY...

3. HOW WE MAY REJOICE EVERMORE

- A. LIVE ABOVE THE WORLD, 2 COR. 4:8, WE ARE TROUBLED ON EVERY SIDE, YET NOT DISTRESSED;
WE ARE PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR....
- B. LIVE ABOVE THE NATURAL TEMPER OF OUR BODIES
- C. AVOID THINGS THAT GRIEVE AND TROUBLE YOU.
 - (1). SINS
 - (2). NEEDLESS QUESTIONS
- D. WHATEVER HAPPENS, KEEP YOUR TRUST IN GOD.

II. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

1. HOW WE CAN DO THIS

- A. MAKE PRAYER A HABIT OF LIFE.
IT RELATES TO OUR THOUGHT, AFFECTIONS, FEELINGS.
- B. WHAT DO THESE WORDS IMPLY?
 - (1). THE VOICE IS NOT AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN PRAYER.
 - (2). THE POSTURE IS NOT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
 - (3). THE PLACE IS NOT ESSENTIAL
 - (4). THE TIME, OR SEASON, OR HOUR, IS NOT ESSENTIAL
TO GOD'S HEARING.
 - (5). THEREFORE THE CHRISTIAN HAS NO RIGHT TO GO INTO ANY PLACE WHERE HE COULD NOT CONTINUE TO PRAY.
HENCE, MANY PLACES OF WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS STAND OBVIOUSLY CONDEMNED. NEVER GO OUT OF THE PURE ATMOSPHERE OF HEAVEN.
- C. NEVER ABANDON PRAYER FOR ANY CAUSE, (SIR THOMAS ABNEY)
- D. NEVER SUSPEND THE REGULAR OFFERING OF PRAYER.
- E. BETWEEN SPECIAL HOURS OF DEVOTION BE MUCH IN SPONTANEOUS PRAYER
- F. ALWAYS BE IN THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER
- G. LET ALL OF YOUR ACTIONS BE ALWAYS CONSISTENT WITH A
CONTINUATION OF A PRAYERFUL ATTITUDE.

2. WHY WE SHOULD DO THIS

- A. WE NEVER CEASE TO NEED PRAYER
- B. WE ARE ALWAYS IN PERSONAL WEAKNESS
- C. WE ARE CONSTANTLY IN DEPENDENCE ON GOD.
- D. BECAUSE GOD ALWAYS COMMANDS IT, 1 TIM. 2:8
- E. IT IS PART OF WORSHIP, ADORATION, CONFESSION, PETITION
- F. IT IS GOD'S WAY FOR OUR RECEIVING THE GOOD THINGS OF HIM.
LUKE 11:3.

III. IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS.

1. IN TRIALS AS WELL AS BLESSINGS,
IN THE BAD AS WELL AS THE GOOD.

2. WHY WE SHOULD DO THIS

A. BECAUSE IT IS THE WILL OF GOD

B. BECAUSE NOT TO DO SO WOULD BE UNBECOMING TO PROPER
CHRISTIAN CONDUCT.

C. BECAUSE IT INSPIRES OTHERS

D. IT IS ONE OF THE FOREMOST OF BLESSINGS,
AND IT IS THE PARENT OF OTHERS.

E. IT MAINTAINS CONTENTMENT IN ALL CONDITIONS
AND PUTS A BRIDLE ON COVETOUS DESIRE.

3. HOW SHOULD WE GIVE THANKS?

A. BY A HUMBLE CONFESSION OF OUR OWN UNWORTHINESS, EPH. 3:8,
"UNTO ME, WHO AM LESS THAN THE LEAST OF ALL SAINTS..."

B. BY A HUMBLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIM IN ALL WE HAVE, PROV. 3:6

C. BY WALKING BEFORE HIM IN ALL PLEASING, 2 TIM. 1:3

4. WHAT MUST WE THANK HIM FOR? — FOR ALL THINGS, EPH. 5:20,
"GIVING THANKS ALWAYS FOR ALL THINGS UNTO GOD AND THE
FATHER IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST."

A. FOR OUR MERCIES, SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL

B. FOR OUR AFFLICTIONS.

(1). BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT SO GREAT AS WE HAVE DESERVED

(2). BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT ETERNAL, LAM. 3:39, "WHY DOES A
LIVING MAN COMPLAIN, A MAN FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF
HIS SINS?"

(3). BECAUSE THEY ARE REALLY SPIRITUAL MERCIES, ROM. 8:28,
HEB. 12:10, HE CHASTENS US "FOR OUR PROFIT,
THAT WE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS OF HIS HOLINESS."

A. JOB 36:8-10, "AND IF THEY BE BOUND IN FETTERS,
AND BE HOLDEN IN CORDS OF AFFLICTION;

THEN HE SHEWETH THEM THEIR WORK,
AND THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS THAT THEY HAVE EXCEEDED.
HE OPENETH ALSO THEIR EAR TO DISCIPLINE,
AND COMMANDETH THAT THEY RETURN FROM INIQUITY."

B. PS. 119:67, "BEFORE I WAS AFFLICTED I WENT ASTRAY:
BUT NOW I HAVE KEPT THY WORD."

(4). BECAUSE THEY SERVE TO REPROVE US AND EXHORT US.

Norwood Bap. Ch. Aug. '82

4. pr. B. C. 8/19/56 Cent. Ch. Augs. Wed. 21 Nov. 62