

*Evening Sermon Outline – April 18, 2021*

*“Beyond Christmas Joy!” Psalm 98*

*Erma Bombeck once said, “There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child...”*

*I think she was almost correct; I would say there is nothing sadder than to awake Christmas, or any morning and not be a child of God!*

*We are not waiting for Santa, who does not exist, but for Christ, who came to our world, to win our salvation, and who will come again!*

*I. Only Christ gives us reason to rejoice every year, every day and even in all circumstances, because the salvation He has won for us is wonderful –*

**A Psalm. <sup>1</sup> Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. <sup>2</sup> The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. <sup>3</sup> He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;**

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. <sup>4</sup> Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. Psalm 98:1-4**

*1. We are commanded to sing to the LORD, a new song:*

*A. For marvelous things He has done, which are many – Psalm 98:1*

*B. The Holy Arm of the LORD is our LORD Jesus Christ – Isaiah 53*

*–*

**53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? <sup>2</sup> For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* <sup>3</sup> He is despised and rejected by men, Man of**

**sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:1–6 (NKJV)**

- *Note, in verses 1 & 2 of Isaiah 53, the Arm of the LORD is a He!*
- *Note, how He is said to be treated in verses :3-6 and beyond in Isaiah 53, is a reference to the cross as His power for our salvation –*

**<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)**

*Psalm 98 references God’s Holy Arm – Christ, and the salvation He wins for us being made known in the site of the nations (Gentiles) – Psalm 98:1-2*

*Of course, “His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel” is mentioned and again, repeated for emphasis --- All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Psalm 98:3*

*2. These are our reasons for rejoicing and singing and the COMMAND to rejoice and sing is also repeated –*

**<sup>4</sup> Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. Psalm 98:4**

*This repetition is probably at least part of the reason why “Joy to the World” a Christmas Carol based on Psalm 98, has the verses – “Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.” George F. Handel*

**Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) See also James 1:2 -**

II. *The joy Christ gives is a singing, shouting, trumpet blowing joy –*

1. **Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!** (each generation should have new music for God)
2. **Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth** (Jews and Gentiles, everyone who is saved); shouting joyfully is not a strong suit of Presbyterians ---
3. **Break forth in song** (like a musical),
4. **and sing praises.**(but focusing on God)
5. **5 Sing to the LORD with the harp** (soft beautiful music),
6. **With the harp and the sound of a psalm** (Holy themes),
7. **<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of a horn** (Loud, energetic, victorious music); **Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King.** (Psalm 98:1-6 NKJ)
  - Notice 7 (or several) different kinds of rejoicing
  - Then we start over again!

III. *This is Christmas (birth of Christ) and evangelical “joy” –*

**<sup>2</sup>The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations. Psalm 98:2**

1. *This salvation was revealed to Mary, Jesus’ mother -*

*Commentator Adam Clarke puts it well - “This Psalm (98) is an evident prophecy of Christ's coming to save the world; and what is here foretold by David is, in the Blessed Virgin's Song, chanted forth as being accomplished. David is the Voice, and Mary is the Echo.*

1. DAVID. "O sing unto the Lord a new song." (The Voice.) MARY. "My soul doth magnify the Lord." (The Echo.)
2. DAVID. "He hath done marvelous things." (The Voice.) MARY. "He that is mighty hath done great things." (The Echo.)
3. DAVID. "With his own right hand and holy arm hath he gotten himself the victory." (The Voice.) MARY. "He hath showed strength with his Arm, and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts." (The Echo.)

4. DAVID. "The Lord hath made known his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly showed, "&c. (The Voice.) MARY. "His mercy is on them that fear him, from generation to generation." (The Echo.)

5. DAVID. "He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel." (The Voice.) MARY. "He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy." (The Echo.)

2. *Revealed / Made known –*

A. *Through Christ’s appearing –*

**1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; <sup>3</sup> who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup> having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. Hebrews 1:1-4**

B. *By angels –*

**<sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

**<sup>12</sup> And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:10–12 (NKJV)**

C. *By more ordinary preaching –*

**<sup>17</sup> So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (NKJV)**

IV. *Earth shaking, nature singing, joy –*

**<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell in it; <sup>8</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the LORD, Psalm 98:7-8**

V. *Because He is coming to judge –*

**<sup>9</sup> For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity. Psalm 98:9 (NKJV)**

*An ungodly world will mourn – Revelation 1:7, but we should rejoice!*

*Arnold Brevick*